

# RECLAMATION


*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of non-Central Valley Project (Groundwater) in the Delta-Mendota Canal – Water Year 2010 through Water Year 2011


FONSI-09-169

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
South-Central California Area Office

February 2010

# Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for the Conveyance of Non-Central Valley Project (Groundwater) in the Delta-Mendota Canal – Water Year 2010 through Water Year 2011

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the approval of the issuance of two-year Exchange Agreements and/or two-year Warren Act contracts for the conveyance and storage in San Luis Reservoir of non-Central Valley Project (groundwater) in the Delta Mendota Canal to requesting CVP contractors within the Delta Division and San Luis Unit for the 2010 Contract Year and ending 2012 is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number 09-169, *Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for the Conveyance of Non-Central Valley Project (Groundwater) in the Delta Mendota Canal – Water Year 2010 through Water Year 2011*, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

## Background

California has experienced a severe drought in recent years that has reduced water supplies to many water districts. South-of-Delta CVP water service contractors have experienced reduced water supply allocations in 2007, 2008, and 2009 due to hydrologic conditions and/or regulatory constraints. The hydrologic conditions for 2010 are not yet known, but it is likely that SOD CVP contractors will need to supplement supplies to meet demands because of past dry years and low reservoir storage levels. Operations of the Federal Jones Pumping Plant will likely continue to be limited due to the various constraints on Delta operations, which will reduce available CVP contract supplies. SOD CVP contractors thus need to identify additional supplies to avoid shortages for their customers.

Reclamation proposes to issue two-year Exchange Agreements and/or two-year Warren Act contracts to requesting CVP contractors within the Delta Division and San Luis Unit for the 2010 Contract Year and ending 2012. The term will be March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 for pumping and conveyance, and March 1, 2010 through February 29, 2012 for storage in San Luis Reservoir (SLR) and conveyance from the SLR.

Each participating contractor will be allowed to pump up to 10,000 acre-feet (AF) of non-CVP water into the DMC. Reclamation has capped the Proposed Action at 50,000 AF combined for all districts participating in the DMC Pump-in Program. The total amount of groundwater pumped into the DMC will not exceed that 50,000 AF. Conveyance and storage of non-CVP water in CVP facilities will be subject to available capacity.

Table 2-1 is a list of the water districts that could potentially participate in this Proposed Action and the estimated pumping quantities:

**Table 0-1 Warren Act Contract/Exchange Agreement Quantities for Groundwater Pumping into DMC**

<i>District</i>	Quantity for 2010 (AF)
Byron Bethany Irrigation District	2,000
Banta Carbona Irrigation District	4,500
Del Puerto Water District	10,000
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	3,000
San Luis Water District	10,000
Panoche Water District	10,000
Pacheco Water District	5,000
Mercy Springs Water District	5,500
Total	50,000

The Delta-Mendota Canal 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Groundwater will be adhered to.

As specified in a letter from the San Joaquin Exchange Contractors' conditions were set forth for the 2010 DMC Pumping Program (see Appendix C of EA-09-169).

Reclamation posted the draft EA/FONSI for public review and comment on Reclamation's website. The public review period began February 19, 2010 and ended March 4, 2010. Reclamation did not receive any comments during the review period.

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following findings:

## **FINDINGS**

### **Air Quality**

The majority of pumps to convey the water under the Proposed Action are electric. These pumps will not emit pollutants at the pump; the source of the pollutants originates at the power plant. Power plants are permitted based on their maximum operating potential. The additional electricity will not result in the power plant exceeding operating capacity, and, thus, the applicable emissions permit.

Very few pumps will be diesel pumps and will not exceed the de minimis thresholds.

In summary, the construction and operation of the Proposed Action will not cause a significant impact to air quality in the SJVAB or exceed applicable standards.

### **Water Resources**

The Proposed Action will not interfere in the quantity or timing of diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. CVP operations and facilities will not vary considerably under either alternative.

The total quantity of groundwater that can be pumped into the DMC under the Proposed Action will be limited to 50,000 AF, and that quantity will be divided among the San Luis Unit and Delta Division contractors. However, each district will be limited to pumping a quantity below the "safe yield" as established in the groundwater management plan, in order to prevent groundwater overdraft and avoid adverse impacts.

Every source of non-CVP water must be tested. Water quality and monitoring requirements are established by Reclamation to protect water quality in federal facilities by ensuring that non-CVP water does not impair existing uses or negatively impact existing water quality conditions. The *Delta-Mendota Canal 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Groundwater* will be adhered to. Therefore, there will be no significant impact due to the Proposed Action.

### **Land Use**

The Proposed Action will utilize CVP water to allow district agricultural lands to remain in production, and to convey non-CVP water to other receiving areas to support existing farmlands and minimize the potential for fallowing agricultural land. No new lands will be cultivated with this water. The conveyance of the non-CVP water through CVP facilities will not contribute to changes in land use. The Proposed Action will not increase or decrease water supplies that will result in additional homes to be constructed and served. There will be no significant impacts to land use caused by the Proposed Action.

### **Biological Resources**

There will be no impacts to biological resources. Most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act do not occur in the Proposed Action area. The Proposed Action will not involve the conversion of any land fallowed and untilled for three or more years. The Proposed Action also will not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do have some value to listed species or birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Due to the fact that the Exchange Agreement and/or Warren Act contract related water will not reach streams containing listed fish species, there will be no effects to these species. No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Proposed Action and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat will be affected.

Potential effects to giant garter snakes are expected only if the water quality parameters exceed concentrations or levels identified as toxic or of concern. Daily water quality monitoring, with the requirement of pumps ceasing if water quality objectives are exceeded, however, will avoid such effects to the species. A brief "lag time" between detection of the exceedance (and the resultant shutting down of pumps) and the subsequent reduction in contaminant concentration will be no more than a day or two and will not cause any effect over the extremely short duration before the water quality standards are returned to the target levels.

There will be no new pumps or construction under the Proposed Action. There will be no effects to the giant garter snake due to groundwater overdraft, under this short term action, because groundwater will remain within the district.

The short duration of the water availability, the requirement that no native lands be converted without consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the stringent requirements for water quality will preclude any impacts to wildlife, whether federally listed or not.

### **Cultural Resources**

The conveyance of non-CVP water will not harm any cultural resources as this is not the type of action that affects cultural resources.

### **Indian Trust Assets**

There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the water involved with this action, nor is there such a property interest in the lands designated to receive the water proposed in this action. This action will have no significant impact on Indian Trust Assets.

### **Socioeconomic Resources**

Groundwater pump-ins from the district will help meet demand and help avoid reduction in agriculture production as a result of the anticipated dry year, but most likely additional water supplies will still be needed in order to alleviate all of the effects of the water shortage. There will be no significant impacts from the Proposed Action.

### **Environmental Justice**

Implementing the Proposed Action will not cause any harm to minority or disadvantaged populations within the project area. A Warren Act contract will allow the water districts to use their non-CVP water for irrigation in their service area. The availability of this water will help maintain agricultural production and local employment since another dry year is anticipated. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts from the Proposed Action.

### **Climate Change**

Global climate change is expected to have some effect on the snow pack of the Sierra Nevadas and the run off regime. Current data are not yet clear on the hydrologic changes and how they will affect the San Joaquin Valley. Water allocations are made dependent on hydrologic conditions and environmental requirements. Since Reclamation operations and allocations are flexible, any changes in hydrologic conditions due to global climate change will be addressed within Reclamation's operational flexibility and therefore surface water resource changes due to climate change will be the same with or without the Proposed Action.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Reclamation has made Warren Act contracts available in previous years whether it was a dry year or not. Most likely, this year more districts will be requesting Warren Act contracts since it is anticipated to be another dry year and groundwater is a potential supplement to the expected reduced CVP supply. This is a two-year action, and the cumulative amount of groundwater pumping the districts are limited to, under this Proposed Action, is 50,000 AF. However,

districts can request a Warren Act contract separate from the project for up to 10,000 AF of non-CVP water, but this action would be analyzed in a separate environmental document. Additionally, in accordance with the Warren Act contract, Reclamation will continue to make these contracts available to requesting districts in future years, given that each district meets present and future requirements for Warren Act contracts.

Agricultural run-off and groundwater pump-in will have cumulative water quality effects to the Mendota Pool; however, the Contracting Officer will terminate conveyance should water quality exceed applicable water quality standards.

Because of the connection between surface water and groundwater, unmanaged groundwater use will eventually affect other water users and may have significant impacts on the environment and economy. The cumulative effects of groundwater pumping and continued application of irrigation water to agricultural lands will contribute indirectly to the current groundwater conditions, and future trends as a result of decisions to be made regarding overdraft.

It is not known at this time the level of subsidence threshold that will cause a significant impact on the environment and economy. Under Reclamation's monitoring program, data will be collected to fill gaps in information as they relate to subsidence and groundwater quality, and changes made in order to safely maintain water quality and water levels above subsidence thresholds.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Final Environmental Assessment

# **Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of non-Central Valley Project (Groundwater) in the Delta- Mendota Canal – Water Year 2010 through Water Year 2011**

EA-09-169



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid Pacific Region  
South Central California Area Office  
Fresno, California

March 2010

## **Mission Statements**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

# Contents

Section 1	Purpose and Need for Action.....	4
1.1	Background .....	4
1.2	Purpose and Need.....	4
1.3	Scope .....	4
1.4	Potential Issues .....	5
1.5	Reclamation’s Legal and Statutory Authorities and Jurisdiction Relevant to the Proposed Federal Action.....	5
Section 2	Alternatives Including Proposed Action.....	8
2.1	Alternative A – No Action .....	8
2.2	Alternative B - Proposed Action .....	8
Section 3	Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences.....	13
3.1	Air Quality.....	13
3.2	Water Resources.....	15
3.3	Land Use .....	29
3.4	Biological Resources.....	30
3.5	Cultural Resources .....	36
3.6	Indian Trust Assets.....	38
3.7	Socioeconomic Resources.....	38
3.8	Environmental Justice .....	40
3.9	Global Climate Change .....	41
3.10	Cumulative Impacts.....	42
Section 4	Public Review Period.....	44
Section 5	Consultation and Coordination .....	44
5.1	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC § 661 et seq.) .....	44
5.2	Endangered Species Act (16 USC §1531 et seq.) .....	45
5.3	National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC § 470 et seq.).....	45
5.4	Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC § 703 et seq.).....	45
5.5	Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990 - Protection of Wetlands.....	46
5.6	Clean Water Act (16 USC § 703 et seq.) .....	46
5.7	Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7506 (C)).....	46
Section 6	List of Preparers and Reviewers .....	46
Section 7	References.....	47
Appendix A – Groundwater Basins and Well Locations		
Appendix B – Water Quality Monitoring Program – Groundwater		
Appendix C – Exchange Contactors’ Letter		

## List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1-1	General Location Map.....	7
Figure 2-1	Management Areas 2 and 3.....	12
Figure 3-1	Federal Water District and Water Conveyance Facilities Near the Mendota Pool....	20
Figure 3-2	Mendota Pool .....	22
Table 2-1	Warren Act Contract/Exchange Agreement Quantities for Groundwater Pumping into DMC .....	8

Table 2-2 Potential Delivery Locations for Groundwater Pump-in Water .....	9
Table 3-1 District Pumps .....	14
Table 3-2 San Joaquin Valley General Conformity de minimis Thresholds .....	14
Table 3-3 Proposed Action Calculated Emissions .....	15
Table 3-4 5-Year CVP Allocation Percentages .....	16
Table 3-5 Baseline Supply .....	16
Table 3-6 Groundwater Balance in the Exchange Contractors Service Area Overall Groundwater Balance, 1993-2002 .....	25
Table 3-7 San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basins (DWR 2003), Ordinances, and Districts....	26
Table 3-8 Past Groundwater Pumping Under the Groundwater Pump-in Program .....	27
Table 3-9 Threatened and Endangered Species List.....	32
Table 3-10 Job Distribution (2007) and Growth by Industry Sector (2001-2007) .....	39
Table 3-11 County-Level Socioeconomic Data.....	39
Table 3-12 Community Characteristics by County .....	40
Table 3-13 Warren Act Contracts and Transfers Proposed between 2007-2009.....	43

## List of Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definition of Terms

AF	acre-feet (the volume of water one foot deep and an acre in area)
AF/y	AF per year
APE	area of potential effects
BCID	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
BBID	Byron Bethany Irrigation District
BO	Biological Opinion
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CCID	Central California Irrigation District
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
CWA	Clean Water Act
DMC	Delta-Mendota Canal
DPWD	Del Puerto Water District
DSA	Direct Service Area
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Exchange Contractors	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
FWCA	Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act

GHG	Greenhouse gases
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Mendota WA	Mendota Wildlife Area
Mg/L	milligram per liter
M&I	municipal and industrial
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Milepost
MSWD	Mercy Springs Water District
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
Pacheco	Pacheco Water District
Panoche	Panoche Water District
Pb	Lead
PID	Patterson Irrigation District
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter 2.5
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter 10
PWD	Panoche Water District
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SJV	San Joaquin Valley
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJR	San Joaquin River
SLC	San Luis Canal
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
SLWD	San Luis Water District
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SOD	south-of-Delta
SWP	California State Water Project
TDS	total dissolved solids
WWD	Westlands Water District
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

# **Section 1 Purpose and Need for Action**

## **1.1 Background**

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), on behalf of its member agencies, has requested approval of two-year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts to pump groundwater for the 2010 Contract Year with delivery ending in 2012 (March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2012) into the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) for delivery to contractors.

The Warren Act (Act as of February, 21, 1911, CH. 141, (36 STAT. 925)) authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to negotiate agreements to store or convey non-Central Valley Project (CVP) water when excess capacity is available in federal facilities. The action area of the Proposed Action consists of water districts in the Delta Division and San Luis Unit of the CVP in central California.

## **1.2 Purpose and Need**

California has experienced a severe drought in recent years that has reduced water supplies to many water districts. South-of-Delta CVP water service contractors have experienced reduced water supply allocations in 2007, 2008, and 2009 due to hydrologic conditions and/or regulatory constraints. The hydrologic conditions for 2010 are not yet known, but it is likely that SOD CVP contractors will need to supplement supplies to meet demands because of past dry years and low reservoir storage levels. Operations of the Federal Jones Pumping Plant will likely continue to be limited due to the various constraints on Delta operations, which would reduce available CVP contract supplies. SOD CVP contractors thus need to identify additional supplies to avoid shortages for their customers.

## **1.3 Scope**

This environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the impacts on environmental resources as a result of No Action Alternative of not conveying non-CVP water in federal facilities and the Proposed Action of conveying non-CVP water in federal facilities.

The following districts are considered in the EA in the effects analysis and could potentially participate in this Proposed Action (see Figure 1-1 general location map):

- Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID)
- Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID)
- Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
- Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD)
- Pacheco Water District (PWD)
- Panoche Water District (Panoche)
- San Luis Water District (SLWD)
- West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)

## **1.4 Potential Issues**

The resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action and therefore analyzed within this EA include:

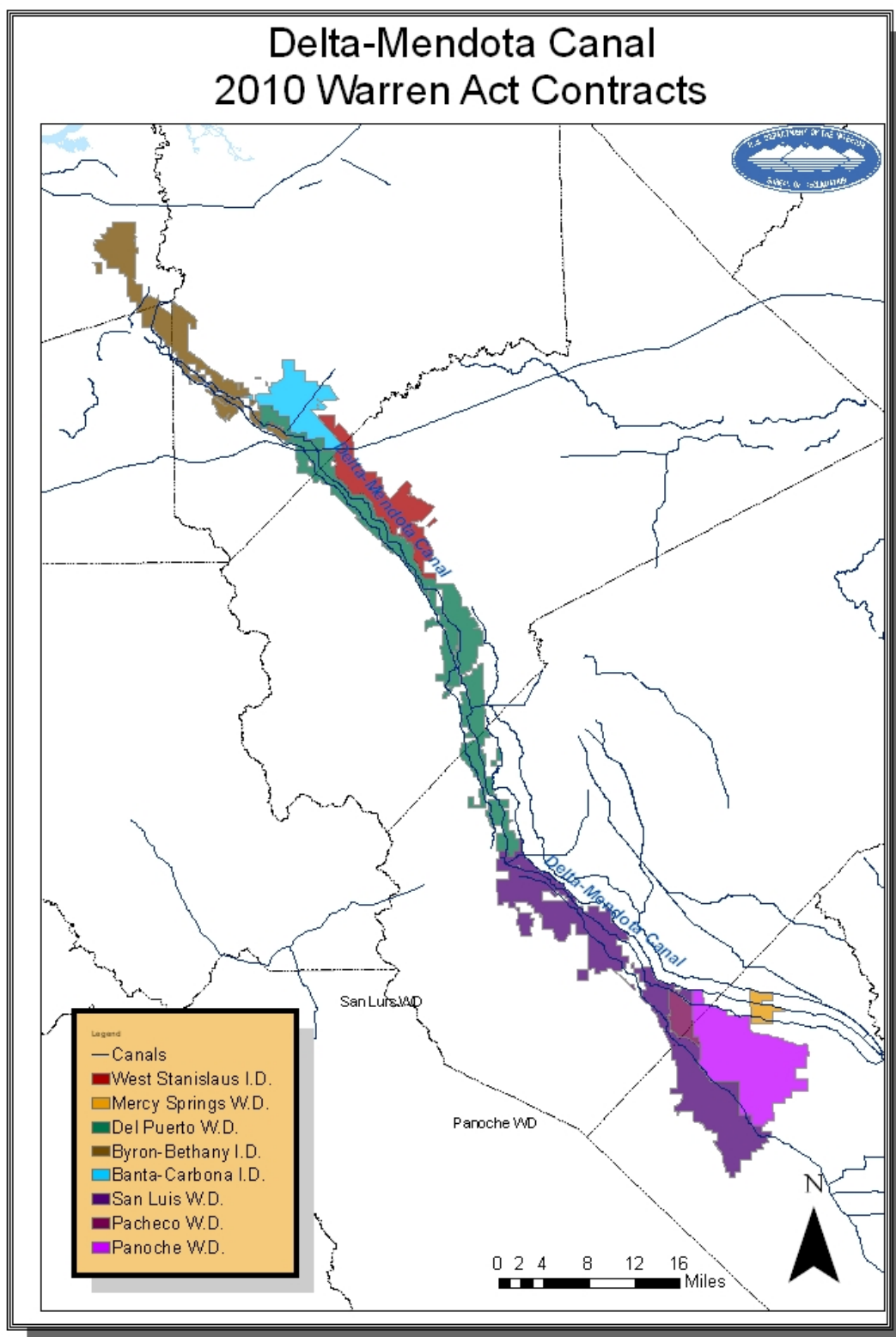
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Land Use
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Indian Trusts Assets
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Global Climate Change
- Cumulative Impacts

## **1.5 Reclamation's Legal and Statutory Authorities and Jurisdiction Relevant to the Proposed Federal Action**

Several Federal laws, permits, licenses and policy requirements have directed, limited or guided the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and decision making process of this EA and include the following:

- Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act – Section 102 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 provides for use of Federal facilities and contracts for temporary water supplies, storage and conveyance of non-CVP water inside and outside project service areas for municipal and industrial (M&I), fish and wildlife and agricultural uses.
- Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act - Section 305 of 1991, enacted March 5, 1992 (106 Stat. 59), also authorizes Reclamation to utilize excess capacity to convey non-CVP water.
- San Joaquin County Groundwater Export Ordinance Number 401.4 - San Joaquin County has adopted an ordinance, 401.4 Section 5-8100 of Title 5 of the Ordinance Code of San Joaquin County, which requires a permit to extract and export groundwater for use outside of the county. This ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference into the Proposed Action.
- Contracts for Additional Storage and Delivery of Water – Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) of 1992, Title 34 (of Public Law 102-575), Section 3408, Additional Authorities (c) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts pursuant to Reclamation law and this title with any Federal agency, California water user or water agency, State agency, or private nonprofit organization for the exchange, impoundment, storage, carriage, and delivery of CVP and non-CVP water for domestic, municipal, industrial, fish and wildlife, and any other beneficial purpose, except that nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to supersede the provisions of section 103 of Public Law 99-546 (100 Stat. 3051). The CVPIA is incorporated by reference.

- Water Quality Standards – Reclamation requires that the operation and maintenance of CVP facilities shall be performed in such manner as is practical to maintain the quality of raw water at the highest level that is reasonably attainable. Water quality and monitoring requirements are established by Reclamation to protect water quality in the DMC by ensuring that imported non-CVP water does not impair existing uses or negatively impact existing water quality conditions. These standards are updated periodically. The annual review for the approval of Warren Act Contracts would be subject to the then-existing water quality standards. The water quality standards are the maximum concentration of certain contaminants that may occur in each source of non-CVP water.
- Title XXXIV CVPIA, October 30, 1992, Section 3405 (a)
- Reclamation Reform Act, October 12, 1982
- Reclamation’s Interim Guidelines for Implementation of Water Transfers under Title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575 (Water Transfer), February 25, 1993
- Reclamation and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regional, Final Administrative Proposal on Water Transfers, April 16, 1998
- Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Regional Director’s Letter entitled “Delegation of Regional Functional Responsibilities to the Central Valley Project (CVP) Area Offices – Water Transfers”, March 17, 2008
- Warren Act - Act as of February, 21, 1911, CH. 141, (36 STAT. 925) authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to negotiate agreements to store or convey non-CVP water when excess capacity is available in federal facilities



**Figure 1-1 General Location Map**

## Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action

### 2.1 Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not issue Warren Act contracts to the requesting contractors within the Delta Division and San Luis Unit for the 2010 Contract Year. The No Action Alternative consists of the continuation of deliveries of CVP water supply in accordance with the terms and conditions of the applicable districts' CVP water service contracts. The districts could still pump groundwater, but would not be authorized to pump the groundwater into the DMC.

### 2.2 Alternative B - Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue two-year Exchange Agreements and/or two-year Warren Act contracts to requesting CVP contractors within the Delta Division and San Luis Unit for the 2010 Contract Year and ending 2012. The term would be March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 for pumping and conveyance, and March 1, 2010 through February 29, 2012 for storage in San Luis Reservoir (SLR) and conveyance from the SLR.

Each participating contractor would be allowed to pump up to 10,000 acre-feet (AF) of non-CVP water into the DMC. Reclamation has capped the Proposed Action at 50,000 AF combined for all districts participating in the DMC Pump-in Program. The total amount of groundwater pumped into the DMC will not exceed that 50,000 AF. Conveyance and storage of non-CVP water in CVP facilities would be subject to available capacity.

Table 2-1 is a list of the water districts that could potentially participate in this Proposed Action and the estimated pumping quantities:

**Table 2-1 Warren Act Contract/Exchange Agreement Quantities for Groundwater Pumping into DMC**

<i>District</i>	Quantity for 2010 (AF)
Byron Bethany Irrigation District	2,000
Banta Carbona Irrigation District	4,500
Del Puerto Water District	10,000
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	3,000
San Luis Water District	10,000
Panoche Water District	10,000
Pacheco Water District	5,000
Mercy Springs Water District	5,500
Total	50,000

#### **Source of non-CVP Water**

The source of the non-CVP water would be district groundwater pumping. The districts would pump groundwater directly into the DMC (see Appendix A for well locations). The amount of water pumped into the DMC would be measured by SLDMWA field staff. Participating districts intend to pump up to 10,000 AF of groundwater into the DMC. However, the combined

total would not exceed 50,000 AF. The district would then take out a like amount from turnouts (see Table 2-2) on either the DMC or the SLC to be conveyed through their distribution systems for agricultural use to water users within the district.

**Table 2-2 Potential Delivery Locations for Groundwater Pump-in Water**

<b>District</b>	<b>Groundwater Pumping DMC Turnout Milepost</b>	<b>Conveyance SLC Turnout Milepost</b>
Byron Bethany Irrigation District	8.71-L,10.53-L,11.28-L,11.45-L, 12.07-R,12.37-L,13.00-L,13.27-L, 13.57-L,14.81-L,15.10-R,16.64- R,19.15-R,19.39-L,19.40-R, 19.59- R, 20.97-R	
Banta Carbona Irrigation District	20.42-L1RW, 20.42-L1, 20.42-L2	
	18.05-L,19.18-L, 20.43-L, 20.59-L, 21.12-R, 21.25-L, 21.65-L, 22.20-L, 22.50-R, 22.78-L, 23.41-L, 23.81-L, 23.94-R, 24.38-L, 25.02-L, 25.18-L, 25.65-L, 26.21-R, 26.89-R, 26.95-L, 27.80-R, 28.19-L, 28.89-L, 29.19-R, 29.19-L, 29.56-L, 29.95-R, 30.33-L, 30.43-R, 30.96-L, 31.31-L, 31.60-R, 31.60-L, 32.36-L, 32.38-R, 32.61-R, 32.62-R, 32.94-L, 33.07-R, 33.71-L, 33.90-R, 34.08-L, 34.55-L, 34.63-R, 35.04-R, 35.18-L, 35.73-RA, 35.73- RB, 36.01-L, 36.39-L, 36.45-R, 36.68-L, 37.32-L, 37.58-L, 38.15-L, 38.15-R, 38.80-L, 39.20-RA, 39.20- RB, 39.22-L, 39.78-L, 40.39-R, 40.45-L, 41.03-L, 41.53-L, 41.53-R, 42.08-L, 42.10-R, 42.50-R, 42.51-L, 42.68-L, 43.22-L, 43.73-L, 44.22- LA, 44.22-LB, 44.24-R, 45.20-L, 45.35-R, 45.38-L, 45.78-R, 45.79-R, 46.02-L, 46.19-R, 46.83-L, 47.37-L, 47.37-R, 47.87-L, 47.89-RA, 47.89- RB, 48.14-L, 48.60-LA, 48.60-LB, 48.96-R, 49.43-L, 49.56-R, 49.84-L, 50.66-L, 50.70-R, 51.41-L, 51.65-L, 52.02-R, 52.40-L, 53.41-L, 53.64- R, 54.01-L, 54.70-L, 55.19-L, 55.85- L, 55.95-R, 56.80-R, 56.82-L, 56.85-L, 57.46-L, 57.95-R, 58.26-L, 58.73-R, 58.90-L, 59.50-RA, 59.50- RB, 59.53-L, 60.54-R 61.05-L, 61.37-R, 61.84-L, 62.08-R, 62.67-L, 63.96-L, 64.32-R, 64.32-L, 64.85-L, 65.35-L, 65.37-R, 66.06-L, 66.68-L, 66.73-L, 67.16-R, 67.55-L, 68.03-R	
Del Puerto Water District		
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	31.31-L1, 31.31-L2	
Mercy Springs Water District	97.70R, 97.70L1, 97.70-L2, 98.74L	
Panoche Water District	93.25-R1, 93.25-R2, 95.95-L, 96.70-RB, 96.70-RD, 100.80-R, 100.84-R	96.15, 96.85,100.48,102.64
Pacheco Water District		89.66-LA 89.67-LA
San Luis Water District	69.21-L, 72.34-L, 73.06-L, 76.77-L,	75.49, 77.11, 79.39, 82.10, 82.00,

	77.24-L, 78.56-R1, 78.56-R2, 78.57-L, 79.13-L, 80.99-L, 81.08-RA, 81.08-RB, 81.08-RC, 81.80-R, 82.31-L, 82.79-R, 83.08-L, 86.71-R, 86.72-L, 87.35-R, 87.97-L, 88.65-RA, 88.91-L, 89.56-L, 90.53-R, 90.57-L	26.00, 83.24, 87.78, 89.69, 92.16, 92.73, 94.06, 98.15, 99.61, 102.20, 103.40, 104.20
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Each district would be required to confirm that the proposed pumping of groundwater would be compatible with local groundwater management plans. Each district would be limited to pumping a quantity below the “safe yield” as established in their groundwater management plan, in order to prevent groundwater overdraft and avoid adverse impacts.

Water quality and monitoring requirements are established by Reclamation. These standards were established to protect water quality in federal facilities by ensuring that imported water does not impair existing uses or negatively impact existing water quality conditions. The Delta-Mendota Canal 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Groundwater (Appendix B) would be adhered to. The Delta-Mendota Canal 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Program describes the plan for measuring the changes in the quality of water caused by the conveyance of groundwater during 2010. The plan has been prepared by Reclamation, in cooperation with the SLDMWA, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), with assistance from staff of BCID, DPWD, SLWD, and Panoche. This monitoring plan will be conducted by staff of Reclamation and will complement independent monitoring by other Federal, State, and private agencies. Several sampling techniques will be used to collect samples of water, including real-time, grab, and composite.

The water would be used for irrigation purposes on established lands. There would be no new construction or excavation occurring as part of the Proposed Action. Pumping and conveyance would occur all within existing wells, meters, and pipes across DMC right-of-way.

No native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) may be cultivated with the water involved with these actions.

In addition to Reclamation’s groundwater monitoring program requirements, the following conditions, as specified in the Exchange Contractors’ letter, would be adhered to (see below).

- No pumping will be allowed in Management Areas 2 and 3 (see Figure 2-1)
- Any well that is proposed to pump into the lower DMC must obtain a current water quality analysis. The analysis shall consist of Ag Suitability and selenium, plus any other constitutes Reclamation may require (wells may be pumped for 24 hours in order to get the initial sample for water quality testing). These tests will be conducted on a monthly basis for the duration of the pumping period. From the Exchange Contractors’ perspective, pumping may be begin once they have received copies of current lab test results for salinity and selenium, recognizing the other constituents may take longer to obtain the lab results.
- Only wells that test at 1,500 ppm TDS or less at the well head will be allowed.
- Only wells that test at 2 ppb selenium or less at the well head will be allowed.
- The calculated degradation caused by the lower DMC wells shall not exceed 30 ppm. (The model developed by Reclamation during the 2008 and 2009 pumping program shall

be used and Reclamation shall provide at least weekly updates of the reports to the Exchange Contractors.)

- At any time, the wells in the lower DMC will be shut off if the measured water quality at Check 20 on the DMC exceeds 450 ppm TDS in a single day. The wells may resume pumping after the average water exceedence no longer exists for three days. Wells with water quality at the well head of 450 TDS or less would be allowed to continue to pump and would be subject to this restriction.
- The water would be credited to the receiving district as a whole, not for specific growers.
- The wells will only run through February 28, 2011.

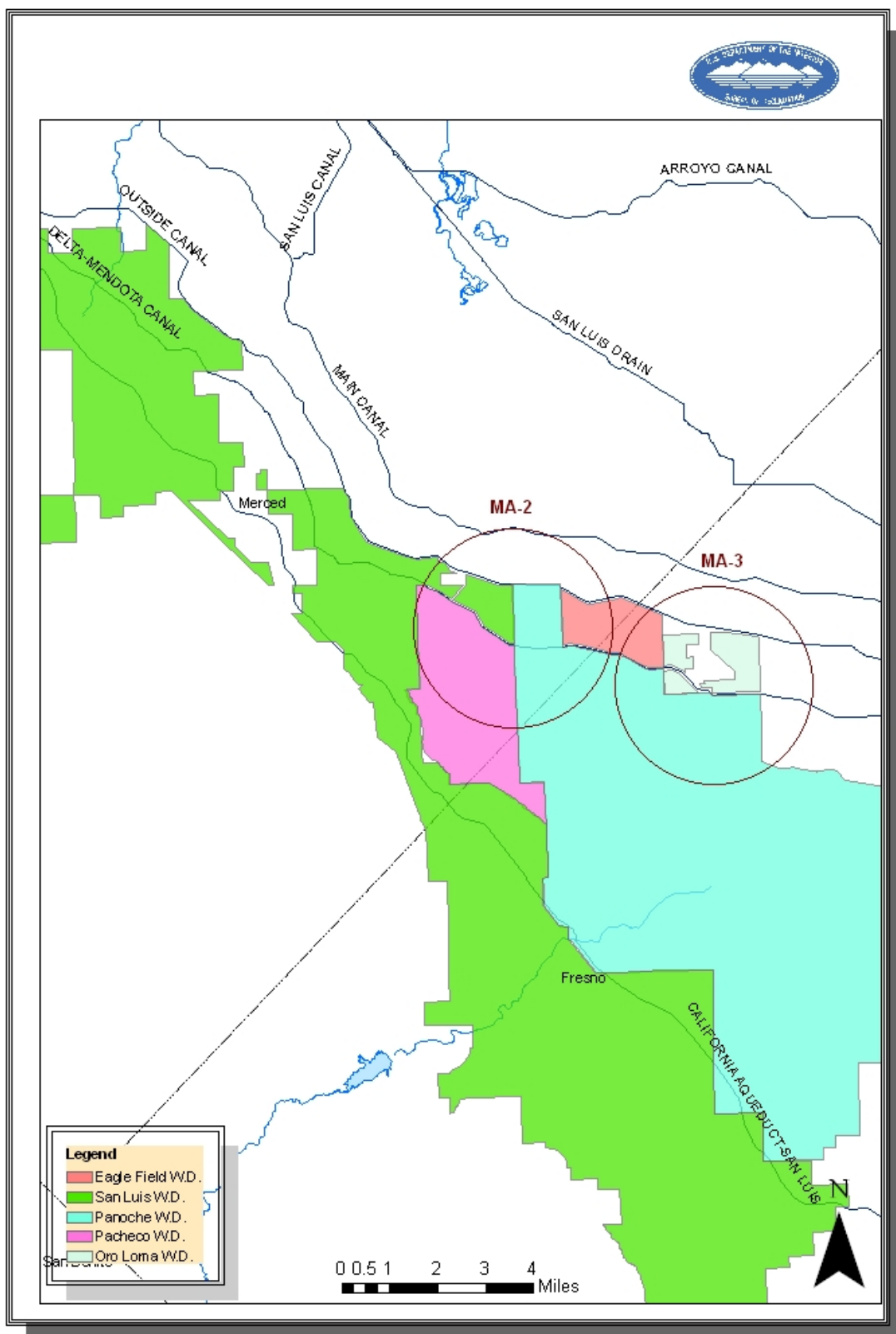


Figure 2-1 Management Areas 2 and 3

## **Section 3 Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences**

### **3.1 Air Quality**

#### **3.1.1 Affected Environment**

The Proposed Action lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB), the second largest air basin in California. Air basins share a common “air shed,” the boundaries of which are defined by surrounding topography. Although mixing between adjacent air basins inevitably occurs, air quality conditions are relatively uniform within a given air basin. The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) experiences episodes of poor atmospheric mixing caused by inversion layers formed when temperature increases with elevation above ground, or when a mass of warm, dry air settles over a mass of cooler air near the ground. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), inhalable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead (Pb). The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Despite years of improvements, the SJVAB does not meet state and federal health-based air quality standards. The SJV is designated as a State and Federal non-attainment area for O<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and a State and Federal attainment area for CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and Pb. The SJV is designated a Non-attainment area by State standards and an Attainment area by Federal standards for PM<sub>10</sub>. To protect health, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) is required by federal law to adopt stringent control measures to reduce emissions (SJVAPCD 2010).

Section 176 (C) of the Clean Air Act [CAA] (42 USC 7506 (C)) requires any entity of the federal government that engages in, supports, or in any way provides financial support for, licenses or permits, or approves any activity to demonstrate that the action conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) required under Section 110 (a) of the Federal CAA (42 USC 7401 (a)) before the action is otherwise approved. In this context, conformity means that such federal actions must be consistent with SIP’s purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS and achieving expeditious attainment of those standards. Each federal agency must determine that any action that is proposed by the agency and that is subject to the regulations implementing the conformity requirements will, in fact conform to the applicable SIP before the action is taken.

On November 30, 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated final general conformity regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 93 Subpart B for all federal activities except those covered under transportation conformity. The general conformity regulations apply to a proposed federal action in a non-attainment or maintenance area if the total of direct and indirect emissions of the relevant criteria pollutants and precursor pollutant caused by the Proposed Action equal or exceed certain de minimis amounts thus requiring the federal agency to make a determination of general conformity.

Table 3-1 lists the kinds of pumps that could be used under the Pump-in Program for the participating districts.

**Table 3-1 District Pumps**

Water District	Pump Type	Horsepower
Byron-Bethany Irrigation District	Two new diesel – Tier 3	Max. 225 Each
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	New diesel & Natural gas engine with gear head	300
Del Puerto Water District	13 electric pumps and one diesel engine that meets the EPA Tier 3 requirement.	N/A
San Luis Water District	Electric Pumps	N/A
Panoche Water District	Electric Pumps	N/A
Pacheco Water District	Electric Pumps	N/A
Mercy Springs Water District	Electric Pumps	N/A
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	Three Diesel Pumps	390 Each

Table 3-2 lists the de minimis thresholds for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

**Table 3-2 San Joaquin Valley General Conformity de minimis Thresholds**

San Joaquin Valley Air Basin			
Pollutant	Federal Status	de minimis (Tons/year)	de minimis (Pounds/day)
VOC/ROG (as an ozone precursor)	Nonattainment serious 8-hour ozone	50	274
NO <sub>x</sub> (as an ozone precursor)	Nonattainment serious 8-hour standard	50	274
PM <sub>10</sub>	Attainment	100	548
CO	Attainment	100	548

Sources: SJVAPCD 2010a; 40 CFR 93.153

### 3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

#### **No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not issue two-year temporary Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts to requesting CVP contractors within the Delta Division and San Luis Unit for the 2010 contract year ending February 28, 2011. Participating Pump-in Program contractors could continue to pump groundwater for their use.

#### **Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action would allow non-CVP water to be conveyed and stored in CVP facilities. This would allow non-CVP water to be delivered to areas in the districts to supplement diminished CVP water supplies in 2010. No new facilities would be needed as a result of the Proposed Action.

The majority of pumps to convey the water under the Proposed Action are electric. These pumps would not emit pollutants at the pump; the source of the pollutants originates at the power plant. Power plants are permitted based on their maximum operating potential. The additional

electricity would not result in the power plant exceeding operating capacity, and, thus, the applicable emissions permit. A majority of power is derived from fossil fuel combusted at power plants to generate electricity. CO<sub>2</sub> is the primary pollutant emitted as a result of the oxidation of the carbon in the fuel. NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> are also emitted.

Very few pumps would be diesel pumps and would not exceed the de minimis thresholds (See Table 3-2).

In summary, the construction and operation of the Proposed Action would not cause an adverse impact to air quality in the SJVAB or exceed applicable standards.

**Table 3-3 Proposed Action Calculated Emissions**

Calculated Proposed Action Emissions			
Pollutant	Federal Status	de minimis (Tons/year)	Project emissions (Tons/year)
VOC/ROG (as an ozone precursor)	Nonattainment serious 8-hour ozone	50	18.1
NO <sub>x</sub> (as an ozone precursor)	Nonattainment serious 8-hour standard	50	3.2
PM <sub>10</sub>	Attainment	100	Not Calculated
CO	Attainment	100	Not Calculated

Sources: SJVAPCD 2010b; 40 CFR 93.153

Air quality emissions for the Proposed Action are well below the de minimus thresholds for the SJVAPCD (Table 3-3); therefore, there would be no air quality impacts associated with this Proposed Action.

## 3.2 Water Resources

### 3.2.1 Affected Environment

#### **Surface Water**

For the purposes of the effect analysis, baseline conditions are described as the existing environment, and the existing environment is defined as the conditions during the past five years. The five-year average allocation of CVP water supplies delivered to the water contractors is described in Table 3-4. It lists deliveries of CVP water on a yearly basis for agriculture purposes from 2005 to 2009. The five-year average is 57 percent of contract amounts for agriculture. The annual contract amounts for the districts is 462,812 AF, thus the baseline supply is 263,802 AF (See Table 3-5).

Another dry year is anticipated for 2010. An allocations determination was made in February and adjustments will continue to be made as the contract year progresses and the hydrology and pumping capabilities dictate.

**Table 3-4 5-Year CVP Allocation Percentages**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percent Ag Allocation</b>
2005	85
2006	100
2007	50
2008	40
2009	10
<b>5-year Average</b>	<b>57</b>

**Table 3-5 Baseline Supply**

<b>Water District</b>	<b>Maximum Contract Amount</b>	<b>57 Percent of Contract Amount</b>
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	20,000	11,400
Byron-Bethany Irrigation District	20,600	11,742
Del Puerto Water District	140,210	79,920
Mercy Springs Water District	2,842	1,620
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	50,000	28,500
Pacheco Water District	10,080	5,746
Panoche Water District	94,000	53,580
San Luis Water District	125,080	71,296
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>462,812</b>	<b>263,803</b>

***Banta-Carbona Irrigation District***

BCID is located in San Joaquin County just south of the City of Tracy and is adjacent to the DPWD to the southwest and the WSID to the southeast. The district's primary supply of water is its pre-1914 water rights on the San Joaquin River. Historically, the district uses all of its pre-1914 water rights in order to irrigate lands within the district. The district has a contract with Reclamation for 20,000 af of CVP water. CVP water is used as a supplemental supply to the district's pre-1914 water supply for agricultural purposes.

The distribution system in BCID consists of 2.5 miles of unlined canal, 33.2 miles of concrete-lined canal, and 46 miles of underground pipeline. CVP water from the DMC is gravity-fed through two turnouts and is then distributed through a pipeline connected to the BCID Main Lift Canal. All of the district's facilities are either pump or gravity delivery canals. Currently, all gates within the district are manually operated and all the turnouts are measured daily (Reclamation 2005c).

***Byran-Bethany Irrigation District***

BBID is located near the City of Tracy. Although primarily an agricultural district, portions of the district are within the sphere of influence for the City of Tracy and are, therefore, currently facing pressures from the development community to convert lands currently in agriculture to municipal and industrial (M&I) land uses. BBID's CVP water supply is for irrigation and M&I purposes; however, only a portion of the district's CVP supply is subject to Reclamation's M&I water shortage policy. Under agreements with the City of Tracy, the district provides raw water for treatment and final delivery back to lands within BBID's boundaries. Since the 1990s, approximately 1,500 acres of land have been converted to M&I use. It is possible that, as the City and San Joaquin County continue to develop, the amount of CVP water used for M&I purposes could increase.

***Del Puerto Water District***

DPWD is primarily an agricultural district. DPWD irrigates 40,000 acres and its water needs are 131,000 AF. Currently, the only CVP supply used for M&I purposes is the one acre-foot of

water supplied to the city landfill each month for dust suppression. All remaining CVP supplies are used for agriculture.

Despite the urban sprawl in the area resulting from the growth of Patterson and Tracy and along the Interstate 5 corridor, DPWD intends to continue to remain primarily an agricultural district. DPWD does not intend to increase the amount of CVP water used for M&I purposes.

There are about 170 water users in the district. More than 30 different crops have been grown commercially in the district over the years. Principal crops grown include row crops (cannery tomatoes, alfalfa, large limas, and dry beans). However, almost half of the agricultural production in the district is permanent crops (almonds, apricots, and walnuts). Typical irrigation methods in the district include primarily furrow irrigation for row crops and sprinkler, sprinkler with less frequent use of drip, and micro-misters for permanent crops. Historically, areas of the district have remained fallow during the growing season (Reclamation 2005).

### ***Mercy Springs Water District***

Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD) is entirely an agricultural district. MSWD's current size is 3,618 acres. Because it is located in a rural area away from major development pressures, the conversion from agricultural to M&I uses is unlikely. The crops typically produced in the district include cotton and alfalfa. All administrative functions for the district are currently being provided by PWD. Also, most of the district has been acquired by the Panoche Drainage District for use as a regional drainage management facility on which subsurface drain water is applied to salt-tolerant crops. The CVP contract supply for this area has been assigned to Westlands Water District (WWD). Administrative functions for MSWD are performed by PWD (Reclamation 2005).

### ***Pacheco Water District***

The Pacheco Water District's (Pacheco) current size is 4,000 total acres. Pacheco was formed in 1953 for the purpose of obtaining a CVP water supply. Pacheco entered into a long-term contract with Reclamation for 10,080 AF of water supply from the DMC and SLC. Pacheco's agricultural demand is 11,000 AF. Pacheco's CVP supply is their primary water supply though the district also has a surface water supply from the Central California Irrigation District (CCID). The district also owns one groundwater well but does not pump groundwater due to the poor quality of the underlying groundwater.

### ***Panoche Water District***

PWD began receiving its first CVP supply water from the Friant Dam of the SJR in 1947 under an interim contract. On August 16, 1955, the PWD entered into a long-term water service contract with Reclamation. This contract provided for the delivery to the PWD of 93,988 AF of water per year from the DMC. PWD's agricultural demands are 106,772 AF. The contract service area is approximately 35,000 acres. The major crops are field crops.

When the PWD's contract with Reclamation became effective, most crops and land developments came to rely on better quality surface water rather than groundwater. The surface water supply was to supplement the groundwater being used. With the exception of drought conditions, almost no groundwater has been utilized in the Panoche.

There are approximately 300 full-time residents living in the PWD service area. This population is comprised primarily of farm labor residents working on adjacent farms. This population has remained virtually the same for over 10 years and is not anticipated to grow due to any non-farming circumstances. PWD supplies about 50 AF of water per year for M&I purposes. PWD does not have any industrial use customers. There is some domestic use which is incidental to agriculture.

### ***San Luis Water District***

SLWD is located on the western side of the San Joaquin Valley near the City of Los Banos, in both Merced and Fresno Counties. Construction of the DMC in the 1950s sparked major development of farmland in the SJV that led to the formation of SLWD in January 1951. SLWD's current size is approximately 66,218 acres.

SLWD's current distribution system consists of 52 miles of pipelines, 10 miles of lined canals, and 7.5 miles of unlined canals. About 20,000 acres within the district, referred to as the Direct Service Area (DSA), receive water from 39 turnouts on the DMC and 23 turnouts on the SLC. The DSA is located almost entirely in Merced County. In addition to the DSA, three improvement districts are also served through distribution systems branching off the SLC. Both Improvement Districts 1 and 2 are primarily located within Fresno County; Improvement District 3 is located primarily in Merced County. The current population within SLWD is approximately 700, with most individuals residing in the community of Santa Nella, located in the extreme northern portion of the district.

Although water deliveries by the SLWD historically have been almost exclusively used for agricultural use, substantial development in and around the cities of Los Banos and Santa Nella have resulted in a shift of some water supplies to M&I use. The SLWD currently supplies approximately 800 AF/yr to approximately 1,300 homes and businesses. M&I demands within the district are expected to increase.

M&I use primarily occurs in the northern section of the district, which is located in Merced County. It is anticipated that the conversion from agricultural use to M&I use will occur mostly in this section of the district. Approximately 10,000 acres identified as potential development locations are currently in the planning stages within Merced County and the district. Much of the land targeted for M&I development is currently unused for irrigated agriculture.

### ***West Stanislaus Irrigation District***

WSID was formed November 29, 1920. WSID serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural, located west of the San Joaquin River, northwest of the City of Patterson, and includes the unincorporated communities of Westley, Grayson and Vernalis. A small portion of the district extends into San Joaquin County. WSID's boundaries include approximately 21,676 acres.

WSID provides its customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes. This water is provided via several sources including surface water from the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers, groundwater from four deep wells within WSID's boundaries, and importing water from the DMC as part of the CVP.

WSID, under a water rights agreement, also sells irrigation water to 13 landowners, which includes approximately 2,203 irrigable acres outside its sphere of influence in the “White Lake” area (north of the unincorporated community of Grayson) [Stanislaus 2009].

### ***CVP Facilities***

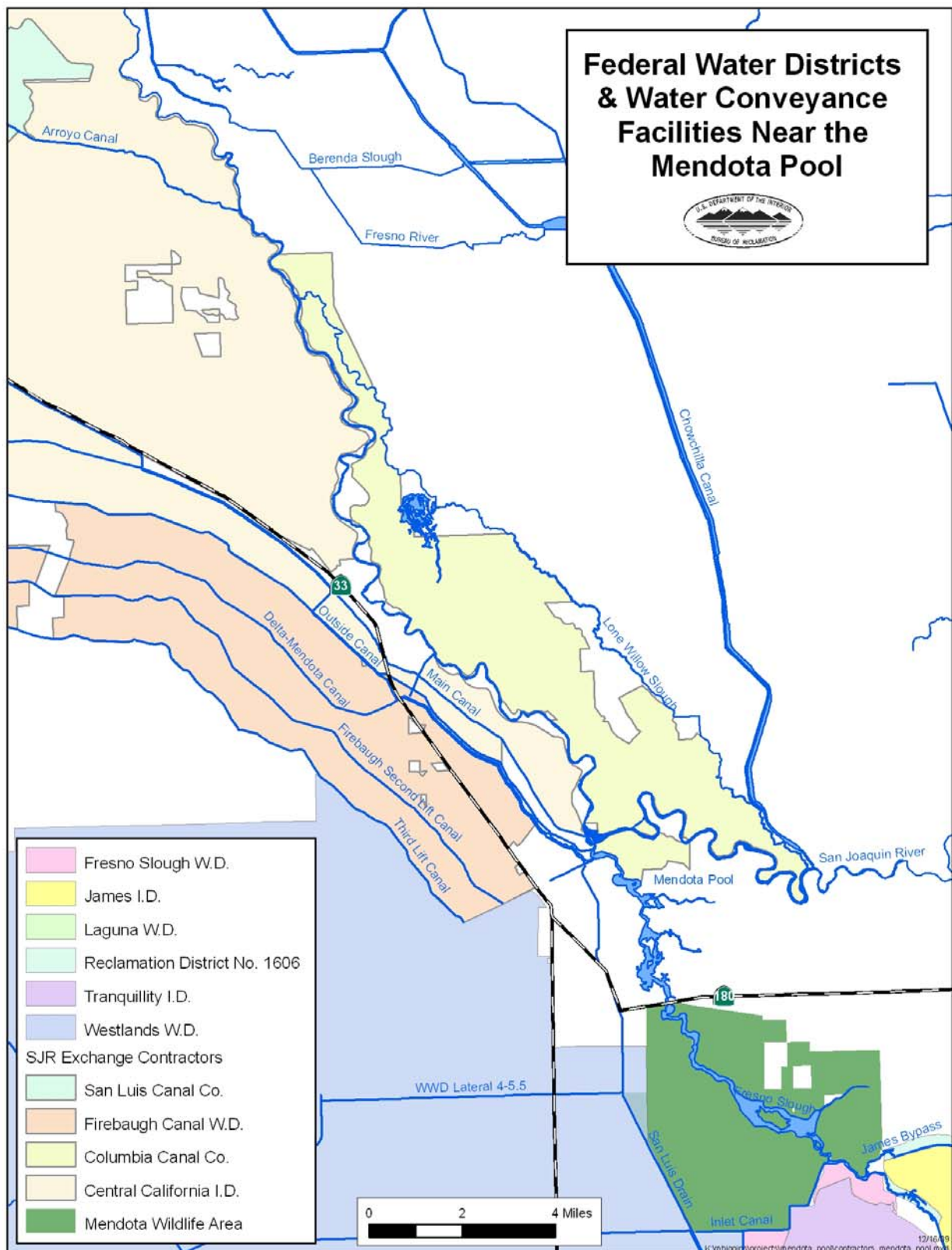
The DMC, the second largest of the CVP waterways, was completed in 1951. It includes a combination of both concrete-lined and earth-lined sections and is about 117 miles in length. It carries water southeasterly from the Jones Pumping Plant, located near Tracy, California, into the DMC along the west side of the SJV for distribution to refuges, irrigation districts, and cities. The canal transports water to the Mendota Pool. The DMC is divided into the upper and lower portions. The dividing point is Check 13 near Santa Nella, California. Check 13 is the intake to the O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir which are connected to the SWP. Capacity in the DMC is restricted by the physical limitations of the canal and the pumping limits of the Jones Pumping Plant (Reclamation 2007). The Mendota Pool is the terminus for the DMC (Check 21) and is located at the confluence of the San Joaquin River (SJR) and the North Fork of the Kings River, approximately 50 miles west of the City of Fresno.

The DMC provides for the transport of water through the central portion of California's Central Valley and acts as a hub around which the CVP and SWP revolve. The DMC is part of the Delta Division facilities of the CVP. The Delta Division facilities transfer water from the Sacramento River to bolster irrigation supplies to lands formerly dependent on water from the SJR or groundwater. The facilities also provide for the transport of water through both the Sacramento-SJR and the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and for the delivery of water to CVP and SWP contractors in the SJV and Southern California SWP contractors (Reclamation 2007).

The Delta-Mendota Canal, completed in 1951, carries water southeasterly from the Tracy (C.W. "Bill" Jones) Pumping Plant along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley for irrigation supply, for use in the San Luis Unit, and to replace San Joaquin River water stored at Friant Dam and used in the Friant-Kern and Madera systems. The canal is about 117 miles long and terminates at the Mendota Pool, about 30 miles west of Fresno. The initial diversion capacity is 4,600 cubic feet per second, which is gradually decreased to 3,211 cubic feet per second at the terminus (Reclamation 2009).

### ***San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors***

The Exchange Contractors consist of CCID, Columbia Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and San Luis Canal Company (Figure 3-1). The Exchange Contractors hold historic water rights to the SJR. Their service area is located on the west side of the SJR Valley. In exchange for the regulation and diversion of the SJR at Millerton Lake (Friant Division), Reclamation agreed to supply water to the Exchange Contractors from the CVP's Delta supply. The Exchange Contractors provide water delivery to over 240,000 acres of irrigable land on the west side of the SJV, spanning a distance roughly from the town of Mendota in the south to the town of Crows Landing in the north. Conveyance and delivery systems generally divert water from the CVP's DMC and Mendota Pool to convey water to customer delivery turnouts and at times discharge to tributaries of the SJR. Deliveries include conveyance of water to wildlife areas.



**Figure 3-1 Federal Water District and Water Conveyance Facilities Near the Mendota Pool**

### ***Mendota Pool***

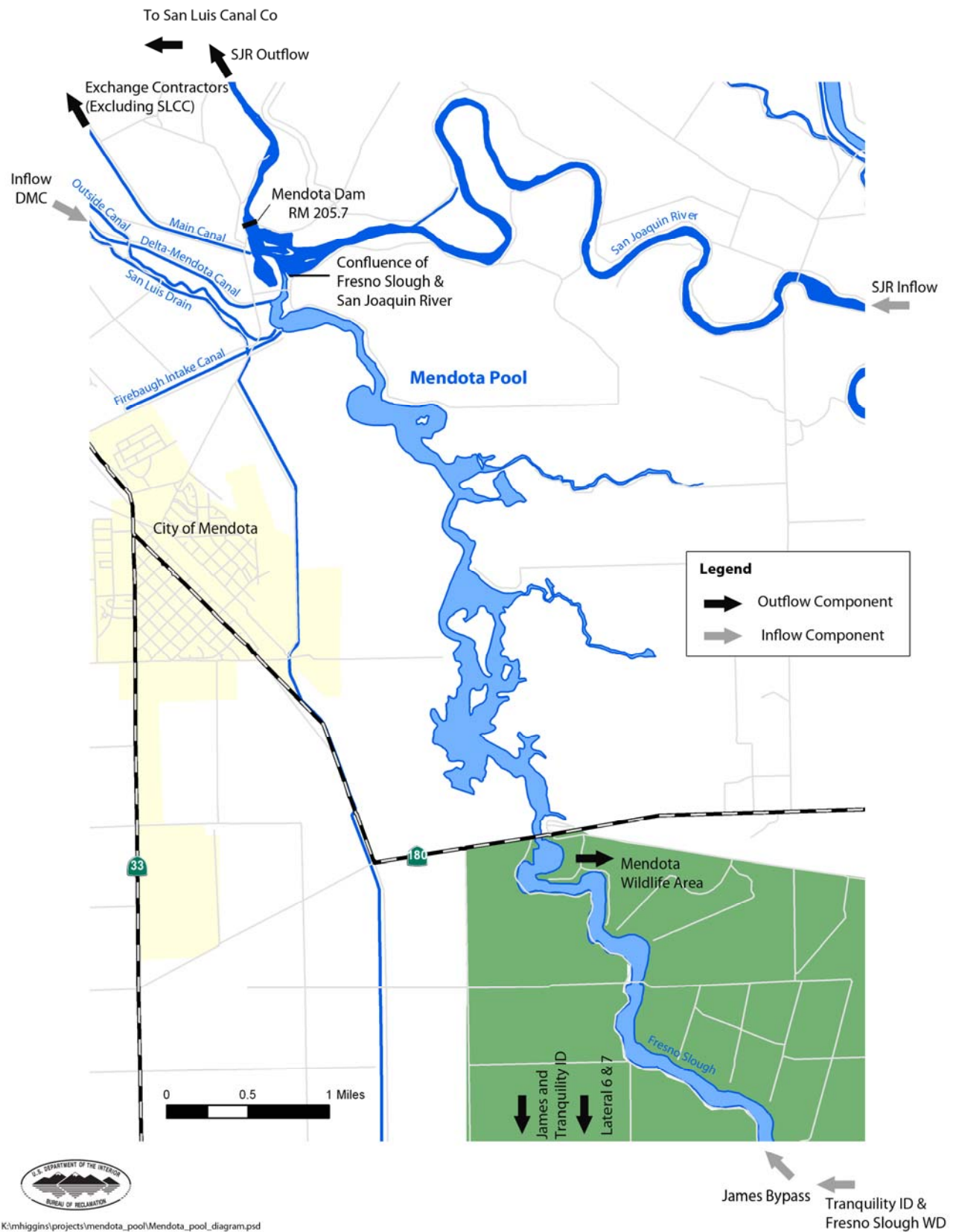
Mendota Pool is a re-regulating reservoir for more than one million AF of CVP water pumped from the Delta and delivered by the DMC. The Mendota Pool is impounded by Mendota Dam, which is owned and operated by CCID. Currently, Mendota Pool is sustained by the inflow from the DMC, which typically conveys 2,500 to 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Mendota Pool during the irrigation season. SJR water is only conveyed to the Mendota Pool during periods of flood flow. Mendota Pool extends over 5 miles up the SJR Channel and over 10 miles into Fresno Slough and varies from less than one hundred to several hundred feet wide. Water depth varies but averages about 4 feet. Mendota Pool contains approximately 8,000 AF of water and has a surface area of approximately 2,000 acres when full. It is the largest body of ponded water on the SJV basin floor.

The Mendota Pool is located at the confluence of the SJR and Fresno Slough. The Mendota Pool receives water from the SJR, the Delta via the DMC, groundwater pumping from the Mendota Pool Pumpers, and intermittently from the Kings River drainage in the south via the James Bypass into Fresno Slough. Water from the Mendota Pool is diverted for a variety of agricultural, municipal, and habitat management uses. Mendota Wildlife Area (Mendota WA) receives water from the Mendota Pool via Fresno Slough, which is managed by CCID as a water conveyance facility. Gates and pumps divert water from Fresno Slough to Mendota WA.

In addition to Mendota WA, several CVP Settlement Contractors and SJR Exchange Contractors (Exchange Contractors) rely on Mendota Pool for water deliveries.

Water quality conditions in the Mendota Pool depend on inflows from the DMC, groundwater pumped into Mendota Pool by the Mendota Pool Pumpers and, to a limited extent, SJR inflows (See Figure 3-2). Water quality in the SJR varies considerably along the river's length. Above Millerton Lake and downstream towards Mendota Pool, flows are infrequent, but the quality of water released from Friant Dam is generally excellent. The reach from Gravelly Ford to Mendota Pool (about 17 miles) is perennially dry except during flood control releases from Friant Dam, although that is projected to change as a result of the SJR Restoration Program. During the irrigation season, most of the water released from the Mendota Pool to the SJR and to irrigators is imported from the Delta via the DMC. This water has higher concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) than water in the upper reaches of the SJR, and might be affected by runoff and seepage into the canal.

An additional source of water in Mendota Pool is from adjacent land owners pumping well water into Mendota Pool and taking delivery of it in a more convenient location, at convenient timing (but within 60 days of pumping in) and at differing water quality. In 2007, these adjacent landowners pumped 7,423 AF into Mendota Pool.



**Figure 3-2 Mendota Pool**

### **Groundwater Resources**

Two primary hydrologic divisions of the SJV are agreed upon by DWR, the State Board, and the U.S. Geological Survey: 1) the SJR Hydrologic Region covering approximately 15,200 square miles and includes all of Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties, most of Merced and Amador counties, and parts of Alpine, Fresno, Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, El Dorado, and San Benito counties; and 2) the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region covering approximately 17,000 square miles and includes all of Kings and Tulare counties and most of Fresno and Kern counties (DWR 2003).

Groundwater quality conditions vary throughout the SJR Hydrologic Region. Salinity (expressed as TDS), boron, nitrates, arsenic, selenium, and mercury are parameters of concern for agricultural and municipal uses throughout the region. Of particular concern on the west side are TDS and selenium.

Groundwater zones commonly used along a portion of the western margin of the SJV have high concentrations of tds, ranging from 500 miligram per liter (mg/L) to greater than 2,000 mg/L (Bertoldi et al. 1991). The concentrations in excess of 2,000 mg/L commonly occur above the Corcoran Clay layer. These high levels have impaired groundwater for irrigation and municipal uses in the western portion of the SJV.

High selenium concentrations in soils of the west side of the SJR Hydrologic Region are of great concern because of their potential to leach from the soil by subsurface irrigation return flow into the groundwater and into receiving surface waters. Selenium concentrations in shallow groundwater along the west side have been highest in the central and southern area south of Los Banos and Mendota with median concentrations of 10,000 to 11,000 micrograms per liter (Bertoldi et al. 1991).

All of the sub-basins within the SJR Hydrologic Region have experienced some overdraft (DWR 2003).

According to DWR Bulletin 118 (DWR 2003), groundwater provides approximately 30 percent of the total supply for the SJR Hydrologic Region. However, the amount of groundwater use within the region varies widely, both between different areas and from one year to the next.

In the southern region of the SJV, several conjunctive use projects are operating or are in proposal stages. The purposes of each project vary and include recharge of overdrafted basins using purchased surface water, cooperative banking concepts that rely on groundwater in dry years and surface water in wet years, and temporary storage of surface water entitlements for later withdrawal.

The western SJV region has drainage problems caused by shallow clay layers of low permeability that limit recharge to groundwater. In addition, elevated concentrations of salinity, selenium, and boron exist in the semi-perched aquifer zone due to leaching from naturally occurring saline deposits from the Coast Range and from accumulated salts in the root zones of irrigated cropland. The SJV Drainage Program, established in 1984, published its recommendations for managing the drainage problem in 1990 (SJVDP 1990), culminating in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1991 that allows Federal and State agencies to

coordinate activities for implementing the plan. East of the SJR, the valley is underlain by older sediments. The shallow groundwater quality is generally very good in this portion of the valley.

In the areas west of the SJR, unconfined groundwater generally flows from the southwest toward the northeast, although groundwater pumping and irrigation complicates and changes local flow directions with time. Aquifer response to pumping and irrigation is relatively rapid, resulting in local changes in groundwater flow direction as associated temporary cones of depression and recharge mounds form and dissipate.

AB 3030 (California Water Code Section 10750 et seq.) allows certain defined existing local agencies to develop a groundwater management plan in groundwater basins defined in DWR Bulletin 118. The groundwater management plan applies to groundwater usage by the Exchange Contractors. This act establishes a voluntary program whereby local water agencies may establish programs for managing their groundwater resources. The Exchange Contractors adopted a Groundwater Management Plan in October 1997 (Exchange Contractors 1997). The plan commits the Exchange Contractors to keeping records of groundwater pumping and conducting periodic monitoring of groundwater levels and quality throughout their service area.

Fresno County regulates the extraction and transfer of groundwater within the county under Title 14, Chapter 3 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code. Fresno County and the Exchange Contractors have an MOU that exempts the Exchange Contractors from regulation of groundwater resources within Fresno County. Fresno County and the Exchange Contractors agree that agricultural production is vital to the county and that groundwater, used conjunctively with surface water, is essential for continued agricultural production. The MOU specifically exempts the Exchange Contractors from the newly adopted Title 14, Chapter 3 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code, in accordance with Section 14.03.05E of the code. Fresno County recognizes that the Exchange Contractors' management, protection, and control of groundwater resources are consistent with Title 14, Chapter 3; therefore, the MOU exempts the Exchange Contractors from this code requirement (Fresno County and Exchange Contractors 2001).

Generally, groundwater development in the Exchange Contractors' service area has not influenced shallow groundwater interaction with surface water bodies. The depth to shallow groundwater, less than 10 feet deep, has been monitored intensively since 1984. The Exchange Contractors report that no trend exists regarding a significant lowering of these groundwater levels during years of heavy pumpage (C. White pers. Comm. 2004).

The calculated change in groundwater storage, illustrated in Table 3-3, shows an average annual decrease of 3,546 AF over the 10-year period, representing approximately 0.31 percent of the total average yearly inflow of over 1,000,000 AF. It should be noted that the change in groundwater storage is not directly measured. It is calculated from the differences in groundwater elevations measured in a network of wells. Thus, the value must be considered an approximation. In this context, a difference of 0.31 percent is within the potential error in the calculation.

**Table 3-6 Groundwater Balance in the Exchange Contractors Service Area Overall Groundwater Balance, 1993-2002**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Inflows (AF)</b>	<b>Total Outflows (AF)</b>	<b>Groundwater Pumping (AF)</b>	<b>Change in Groundwater Storage (AF)</b>
1993	1,205,765	1,236,292	136,388	-30,527
1994*	941,575	1,151,158	225,750	-209,580
1995	1,234,440	1,190,328	102,796	44,112
1996	1,301,032	1,201,994	121,050	99,038
1997	1,153,560	1,195,461	126,047	-49,242
1998	1,339,253	1,243,397	37,686	111,198
1999	959,686	1,090,646	99,964	-86,992
2000	1,102,669	1,081,140	120,738	40,622
2001	1,084,402	1,074,070	134,212	6,105
2002	1,008,553	1,067,654	175,894	39,808
Average 1993-2002	1,133,094	1,153,214	128,053	-3,546

**Source:** Exchange Contractors 2003.

\*Critically dry year (Reclamation 2004)

The long-term hydrographic record for the Exchange Contractors' service area was reviewed by Schmidt (CCID 1997). Schmidt's review shows that groundwater is in balance or is rising.

### ***Regional Monitoring Programs***

Several monitoring programs are currently occurring in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. These monitoring programs are being undertaken by Reclamation, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Geological Survey, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), SLDMWA, WWD, Tulare Irrigation District, and James Irrigation District. A brief summary of these monitoring programs is provided in this section. In addition, several counties have adopted groundwater management plans and/or ordinances (see Table 3-5) [Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 2009].

Most groundwater management ordinances restrict out-of-county groundwater uses. Some groundwater management plans specify trigger levels for groundwater levels in the Subbasin management objectives (BMOs) to prevent overdraft or other water quality problems. However, in many cases, there are no mechanisms to address the non-compliance with the BMOs. The current groundwater ordinances, AB 3030 groundwater management plans, and local BMO activities, which were intended for localized groundwater management, appear not to be well suited for implementing regional groundwater management. These limitations can hinder the effectiveness of conjunctive management in the State (DWR 2009b).

**Table 3-7 San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basins (DWR 2003), Ordinances, and Districts  
San Joaquin Valley Hydrologic Region**

County	Subbasin Name	Ordinance	Districts overlying County & Basin
Madera	Madera Subbasin <sup>2</sup> , Chowchilla Subbasin, Delta-Mendota <sup>3</sup>	Yes. Title 13, Water and Sewers, 13.100.050, Ord. 573B § 1(part), 2001. <sup>1</sup> Requires permit to export groundwater.	None but Delta-Mendota also underlies Fresno, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties. So, there is a connection.
Fresno	Delta-Mendota <sup>3</sup>	Yes.	San Luis WD, Panoche WD
San Joaquin	Tracy Subbasin <sup>4</sup>	Yes.	Byron Bethany ID, West Stanislaus ID, Banta Carbona ID, Del Puerto WD
Stanislaus	Delta-Mendota <sup>3</sup>	Groundwater management Plan	West Stanislaus ID, Del Puerto WD
Merced	Delta Mendota <sup>3</sup>	No.	Del Puerto WD, San Luis WD, Pacheco WD, Panoche WD

**Tulare Lake Basin Hydrologic Region**

County	Subbasin	Ordinance	Districts overlying County & Subbasin
Kings	Tulare Lake Subbasin <sup>5</sup>	No.	Westlands DD #1
Fresno	Madera Subbasin <sup>2</sup>	No.	San Luis WD, Panoche WD, Pacheco WD, Mercy Springs WD, Westlands DD #1

**Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin**

County	Subbasin	Ordinance	Districts overlying County & Subbasin
Contra Costa	Solano Subbasin	No.	Northwestern part of Byron Bethany ID

<sup>1</sup> Madera County 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Madera County has adopted an ordinance to provide regulatory control over exporting of groundwater, groundwater banking, and importing of groundwater for the purpose of groundwater banking.

<sup>3</sup> Fresno County has a Groundwater Management Ordinance restricting the extraction and transfer of groundwater outside of the County. It requires that the groundwater resources of Fresno County be protected from harm resulting from extraction and transfer of groundwater for use on lands outside the county and consequential transfer of surface water outside of the county due to extraction. A County-issued permit is required for groundwater transfer, directly or indirectly, outside of the County, unless the action is exempted or a permit first obtained.

<sup>4</sup> San Joaquin County adopted a groundwater management ordinance in 1996 and an amendment in 2000, regarding extraction and exportation of groundwater from San Joaquin County. The ordinance requires that a permit be obtained for use of extracted groundwater outside the County boundaries.

<sup>5</sup> There are no known pertinent ordinances or regulations that affect groundwater in the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

The SLDMWA adopted an AB3030 groundwater management plan. The SLDMWA is composed of the Banta-Carbona ID, City of Tracy, Del Puerto WD, Patterson WD, Plain View WD, San Joaquin County FC&WCD, West Side ID, and West Stanislaus ID.

The groundwater pumping under the Groundwater Pump-in Program for the last 10 years (Table 3-5) shows that groundwater pumping has increased substantially beginning with drought year 2008. It also correlates with the pumping curtailments that began in 2007 in response to Federal Judge Oliver Wanger's Delta Smelt Interim Remedy Order.

**Table 3-8 Past Groundwater Pumping Under the Groundwater Pump-in Program**

CVP District	2009*	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BCID	9,451	8,425									
BBID	2,539										
DPWD	7,061	2,029				431	235	980	2,682	1,724	
MSWD	6,584										
Pacheco											
Panoche	2,796	7,184				233	265	370	1,214	1,243	
SLWD	5,040	2,909				1,097	1,401	4,176	4,650	5,485	1,500
WSID	4,370										
TOTAL	37,841	20,547				1,761	1,901	5,526	8,546	8,452	1,500
10-YR TOTAL	86,074										

Data based on water year (March through February) deliveries

Non-CVP pumped quantities are in AF

\*2009 data retrieved through January 2010

**Sump Monitoring** Reclamation has been monitoring a series of six sumps located between Russell Avenue at MP 97.68 and Washoe Avenue at MP 110.12. This program has been ongoing since 1986. Monitoring frequencies and parameters measured have changed over time. Since 1998, the sumps have been sampled twice yearly for metals, common cations, and common anions. Selenium and electrical conductivity are measured weekly in all six sumps. Water from these sumps is periodically discharged to the DMC. Reclamation is evaluating other methods for disposing of this sump water.

**Warren Act Pump-Ins** Reclamation requires the monitoring of water quality in wells that discharge directly into the DMC. Each well is sampled prior to entry into the program and subsequently every three years. Parameters measured include Title 22 metals and pesticides.

**Selenium Monitoring** A selenium monitoring program was initiated in July 2002. Daily composite samples for selenium and TDS are collected using an autosampler at three locations along the DMC: at the headworks (MP 3.5), Check 13 (O'Neill Forebay), and Bass Avenue (DMC terminus).

**Drinking Water Quality** A fourth program was initiated in November 2002 at the request of the California Department of Health Services. This program collects monthly samples from the DMC at McCabe Road near Check 13. The samples are analyzed for many constituents including alkalinity, total organic carbon, and coliforms.

### 3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

#### **No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, no Exchange Agreements or Warren Act contracts would be issued to any San Luis Unit or Delta Division contractor. The DMC would continue to be used to provide CVP water to CVP contractors. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no

change to CVP facilities and operations. Therefore, no non-CVP water would be conveyed in the DMC. Under the No Action Alternative water districts could continue to pump groundwater. Effects to groundwater overdraft would continue.

### ***Proposed Action***

**Surface Water** The Proposed Action would allow non-CVP water to be conveyed and stored in 2010 in CVP facilities. This would allow non-CVP water to be delivered to other areas to supplement diminished CVP water supplies in 2010 and 2011. No new facilities would be constructed as a result of the Proposed Action. There would be no construction or modification to the DMC and the capacity of the facility would remain the same. The Proposed Action would not interfere with the normal operations of DMC nor would it impede any SWP or CVP obligations to deliver water to other contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat.

Furthermore, the Proposed Action would not interfere in the quantity or timing of diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. CVP operations and facilities would not vary considerably under either alternative.

**Groundwater** The total quantity of groundwater that can be pumped into the DMC under the Proposed Action would be limited to 50,000 AF, and that quantity would be divided among the San Luis Unit and Delta Division contractors. However, each district would be limited to pumping a quantity below the "safe yield" as established in the groundwater management plan, in order to prevent groundwater overdraft and avoid adverse impacts. Safe yield is defined as the amount of groundwater that can be continuously withdrawn from a basin without adverse impact. The amount of water pumped into the DMC would be credited to that district. The quantity of groundwater pumped into the DMC by a district would then be delivered back into the district and used for irrigation purposes throughout the originating district. Though some of the water used for irrigation would be used up by evapotranspiration and evaporation, some would also seep back into the ground.

Additionally, water in each well must meet water quality standards prior to approval for conveyance, and the monitoring of groundwater quality would continue throughout the contract water year. If a well to be used for pumping water into the DMC does not meet the water quality standards, the district could not pump water from that well into the DMC under the Warren Act contract. The Warren Act contract provides for routine testing of each well by Reclamation and SLDMWA to confirm that the groundwater still meets standards. The contract also allows the Contracting Officer to stop a well that fails to meet standards. Reclamation and SLDMWA staff would monitor salinity and selenium in the canal to identify degradation caused by the groundwater, and would work with the SLDMWA and districts to modify or restrict pumping to improve water quality. The groundwater monitoring implemented as part of the Proposed Action would provide specific and detailed information about the effects of groundwater pumping in the area.

Because the DMC and Mendota Pool are sources that the Exchange Contractors (Appendix C – approval letter) divert water from, they would be monitoring the water quality at Mendota Pool.

There would be no adverse impact due to the Proposed Action.

### **3.3 Land Use**

#### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

##### ***Banta-Carbona Irrigation District***

BCID is entirely an agricultural district and does not supply or intend to supply any water for M&I use. BCID extends from the City of Tracy to the San Joaquin-Stanislaus County line near the town of Vernalis. BCID's current size is 14,000 acres and its water needs are 47,000 AF. The major crops are primarily almonds and walnuts, with smaller amounts of apricots, apples, and vineyards; some areas have been planted with grapes over the last few years.

As the City of Tracy and the Interstate 5 corridor continue to grow, attachments and detachments would continue. Also, new areas that may require water for M&I purposes would be detached from the district. Currently, a few parcels within the district are targeted for detachment and would be annexed to the City of Tracy. This detachment process has been on-going in the district. Whenever a new urban expansion is planned, the land is deleted from district boundaries. BCID has assigned 5,000 AF per year (AF/y) through an assignment of its CVP supply to the City of Tracy. Therefore, while vulnerable to development pressures along the Interstate 5 corridor, BCID is expected to remain an entirely agricultural district.

##### ***Del Puerto Water District***

DPWD is primarily an agricultural district. DPWD irrigates 40,000 acres and its water needs are 131,000 AF. Currently, the only CVP supply used for M&I purposes is the one acre-foot of water supplied to the city landfill each month for dust suppression. All remaining CVP supplies are used for agriculture.

Despite the urban sprawl in the area resulting from the growth of Patterson and Tracy and along the Interstate 5 corridor, DPWD would like to continue to remain primarily an agricultural district. DPWD does not intend to increase the amount of CVP water used for M&I purposes.

There are about 170 water users in the district and more than 30 different crops have been grown commercially in the district over the years. Principal crops grown include row crops (cannery tomatoes, alfalfa, large limas, and dry beans). However, almost half of the agricultural production in the district is permanent crops (almonds, apricots, and walnuts). Typical irrigation methods in the district include primarily furrow irrigation for row crops and sprinkler, sprinkler with less frequent use of drip, and micro-misters for permanent crops. Historically, areas of the district have remained fallow during the growing season (Reclamation 2005).

##### ***Mercy Springs Water District***

MSWD is approximately 3,390 acres in size, of which 3,336 acres are irrigable. MSWD is entirely an agricultural district. The crops typically produced in the district include cotton and alfalfa. All administrative functions for the district are currently being provided by Panoche. Also, most of the district has been acquired by the Panoche Drainage District for use as a regional drainage management facility on which subsurface drain water is applied to salt-tolerant crops (Reclamation 2005c).

##### ***Pacheco Water District***

PWD's current size is approximately 4,730 acres in size, of that 4,242 acres are. Crops grown in the district consist of cotton, melons, tomatoes and asparagus (Reclamation 2007).

### ***Panoche Water District***

Panoche is approximately 38,000 acres in size, of which approximately 37,000 acres are irrigated. Current cropping patterns in the district include cotton, tomatoes, melons grapes, and almonds with cotton and tomatoes representing two thirds of the crops (Reclamation 2007).

### ***San Luis Water District***

SLWD is located on the western side of the SJV near the City of Los Banos, in both Merced and Fresno Counties. Construction of the DMC in the 1950s sparked major development of farmland in the SJV that led to the formation of SLWD in January 1951. SLWD's current size is approximately 66,218 acres.

The southern section of the district located in Fresno County is primarily agricultural. The land is planted with either row crops, including cotton and melons, or permanent crops, including primarily almonds. In recent years, some parcels in this area of the district have not been farmed because they are of marginal quality or have high water costs or drainage problems.

### ***West Stanislaus Irrigation District***

WSID irrigates approximately 22,500 acres of cropland through 84 miles of laterals and sublaterals. Although Delta water typically is of better quality than San Joaquin River water WSID typically diverts its maximum allocation from the San Joaquin River, largely on account of the lower cost (San Joaquin River Dissolved Oxygen Technical Working Group 2002).

### ***No Action***

Under the No Action Alternative, no Exchange Agreements or Warren Act contracts would be issued that would allow this non-CVP water to be conveyed and stored in CVP facilities. Reclamation anticipates another dry year. In the dry year, there could be some adverse impacts to crops if supplemental supplies of water are not found. According to SLDMWA (Mizuno personal communication 2009), under the No Action Alternative an estimated total of 30,000 acres (DPWD – 11,000 acres, SLWD – 8,000 acres, and PWD – 11,000 acres) of additional land would be fallowed.

### ***Proposed Action***

The Proposed Action would utilize CVP water to allow district agricultural lands to remain in production, and to convey non-CVP water to other receiving areas to support existing farmlands and minimize the potential for fallowing agricultural land. No new lands would be cultivated with this water. The conveyance of the non-CVP water through CVP facilities would not contribute to changes in land use. The Proposed Action would not increase or decrease water supplies that would result in additional homes to be constructed and served. The approval to be covered under this EA would be for contract years 2010 through 2011. There will be no adverse impacts caused by the Proposed Action.

## **3.4 Biological Resources**

### **3.4.1 Affected Environment**

#### ***Central Valley Refuges***

Section 3406(d) of the CVPIA requires the Secretary of Interior to provide reliable year-round water supplies of suitable quality, meeting peak seasonal needs, to maintain and improve wetland

habitat areas on certain refuges in the Central Valley of California in the National Wildlife Refuge System, State wildlife management areas, and Grassland Resource Conservation District.

These refuges include Mendota WA which is located in the SJV, 30 miles west of Fresno, California. Under normal operating conditions, water is delivered to Mendota WA via gravity flow and pumping from Mendota Pool at Fresno Slough.

The quantity, quality, and timing of water deliveries to refuges identified in CVPIA are in accordance with parameters specified in Reclamation's Report on Refuge Water Supply Investigations, Central Valley Hydrologic Basin, California and the San Joaquin Basin Action Plan/Kesterson Mitigation Action Plan Report, which were incorporated by reference into CVPIA. The reports specified the following two primary levels of water supplies:

- Level 2
- Level 4

Level 2 water supply is identified as a firm, average historical annual water supply required to manage for minimal wetlands maintenance and wildlife habitat development. Level 2 water generally comes from CVP yield. Level 4 water supply is identified as the amount of water required to manage for optimal wetlands and wildlife habitat development. At 12,425 acres, Mendota WA is the largest publicly owned and managed wetland in the SJV. Established between 1954 and 1966, the wildlife area is adjacent to Fresno Slough and the 900-acre Alkali Sink Ecological Reserve. Approximately 8,300 acres of wetlands are maintained at Mendota WA, including almost 6,800 acres of seasonal wetlands. Mendota WA is owned and managed by CDFG.

To implement the refuge water supply provisions of CVPIA, Reclamation entered into a contract, titled "Contract Between the United States and State of California for Water Supply to Los Banos, Volta, North Grasslands and Mendota Wildlife Areas, January 19, 2001" otherwise referred to as "Water Supply Contract", with the CDFG providing for firm CVP water deliveries to the wildlife areas owned/managed by CDFG within the San Joaquin Basin. Consistent with the Water Supply Contract, the following is the breakout for Level 2 and incremental level allocations from the total Full Level 4 water allocation of 29,650 AF for Mendota WA:

- Level 2 = 27,594 AF/y
- Incremental Level 4 = 2,056 AF/y

CVP water is typically conveyed to Mendota WA using the DMC and Mendota Pool. Mendota Pool floods a portion of SJR and Fresno Slough. Water is subsequently pumped from Fresno Slough to Mendota WA and also conveyed from Fresno Slough to Mendota WA by gravity flows. Mendota WA is dependent on gravity flows from Fresno Slough to provide water deliveries to approximately 3,000 acres of wetlands adjacent to both west and east sides of the slough. Fresno Slough is allowed to backflow (gravity flow) through certain water control structures onto Mendota WA. Currently, there are no other existing means to facilitate water delivery to those specific 3,000 wetland acres. Mendota WA is also dependent on adequate water level at Fresno Slough to facilitate pumping that serves many areas of Mendota WA as well.

Detailed baseline habitat information was provided in EA/FONSI-08-98, *Approval of One-Year Temporary Warren Act Contracts for the Conveyance of Non-CVP Water in the Delta-Mendota Canal*, EA-08-98, February, 27, 2009 and is hereby incorporated by reference. That information will not be repeated here.

The habitats associated with the Proposed Action area include non-native grassland, agricultural, valley foothill riparian, alkali desert scrub, ruderal, and fresh emergent wetlands.

### ***Threatened and Endangered Species***

The following list was obtained on February 16, 2010, by accessing the USFWS Database (Document Number 100107033329). The list is for the following USGS quadrangles, which overlapped the districts in the San Luis Unit and Delta Division: Brentwood, Broadview Farms, Byron Hot Springs, Charleston School, Chounet Ranch, Clifton Forebay, Crows Landing, Dos Palos, Hammonds Ranch, Howard Ranch, Laguna Seca Ranch, Los Banos, Los Banos Valley, Midway, Newman, Orestimba Peak, Ortigalita Peak NW, Oxalis, Patterson, San Luis Dam, Solyo, Tracy, Vernalis, Volta, Westley, and Woodward Island. Reclamation also queried the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and combined the USFWS and CNDDDB information with information in Reclamation's files to create the table.

**Table 3-9 Threatened and Endangered Species List**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>*Occurrence in the Study Area</b>
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Large-flowered fiddleneck ( <i>Amsickia grandiflora</i> ) Critical habitat	FE, CE	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland in various soils.	<b>Possible.</b> In undisturbed areas of San Joaquin County.
Contra Costa goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia conjugens</i> ), Critical habitat	FE	Vernal pools within open grassy areas in woodlands and valley grasslands from sea level to 1,500 feet.	<b>Absent.</b> The study area is outside of the known range of this species.
San Joaquin woolly-threads ( <i>Monolopia congdonii</i> )	FE	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands. This species is found only in the southern SJV and surrounding hills. It grows on neutral to subalkaline soils. On the SJV floor, it typically is found on sandy or sandy loam soils.	<b>Present.</b> CNDDDB records indicate extant populations occur within Fresno County.
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepiderus packardii</i> ) Critical habitat	FE	The vernal pool tadpole shrimp is currently distributed across the Central Valley of California and in the San Francisco Bay area. Inhabits highly turbid vernal pools.	<b>Present.</b> Vernal pool habitats within the study area may support populations of this species. CNDDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> ) Critical habitat	FT	Primarily found in vernal pools, may use other seasonal wetlands.	<b>Present.</b> Although very little remains of the vast acreages of vernal pool habitat that once occurred in the region, some vernal pool habitats are still present. CNDDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant in Stanislaus, Contra Costa,

			and San Joaquin Counties.
Longhorn fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i> ) Critical habitat	FE	Endemic to the eastern margin of the central coast mountains in seasonally astatic grassland vernal pools.	<b>Present.</b> Vernal pool habitats within the study area may support populations of this species. CNDDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant.
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> ) Critical habitat	FE	Vernal pool habitats. The species is currently known from several disjunct populations: the Vina Plains in Tehama County, south of Chico in Butte County, the Jepson Prairie Preserve and surrounding area in Solano County, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in Glenn County, Mapes Ranch west of Modesto, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and the Haystack Mountain/Yosemite Lake area in Merced County, and two locations on the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County.	<b>Present.</b> Vernal pool habitats within the study area may support populations of this species. CNDDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	FT	Lives in mature elderberry shrubs of California's Central Valley and Sierra Foothills.	<b>Present.</b> The host plant for this species is common throughout the region. CNDDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant.
<b>FISH</b>			
Southern Distinct Population of North American green sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser medirostris</i> )	FT	Anadromous and highly marine-oriented; spawns mainly in Sacramento River. No evidence of occurrence in San Joaquin River system. Juveniles salvaged in South Delta pumping plants in summer.	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> )	FT	Endemic to the Delta. Found in SJR up to Mossdale in some years and in Sacramento River up to Rio Vista where salinity is 2-7 ppt.	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
Central Valley steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	FT	Anadromous species in cold waters.	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	FE	Anadromous species in cold waters.	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
<b>AMPHIBIANS &amp; REPTILES</b>			
California tiger salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> ) Critical habitat	FT	Found primarily in annual grasslands; requires vernal pools for breeding and rodent burrows for refuge.	<b>Possible.</b> Suitable breeding habitats in the form of vernal pools and stockpounds occur in the

			region. Rodent burrows are common along the fringes of agricultural areas.
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> ) Critical habitat	FE	Red-legged frogs require aquatic habitat for breeding but also use a variety of other habitat types including riparian and upland areas. Adults often utilize dense, shrubby or emergent vegetation closely associated with deep-water pools with fringes of cattails and dense stands of overhanging vegetation such as willows.	<b>Present.</b> Documented as extant within the project area.
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard ( <i>Gambelia sila</i> )	FE, CE	Resident of sparsely vegetated alkali and desert scrub habitats in areas of low topographic relief. They seek cover in mammal burrows, under shrubs or structures such as fence posts; they do not excavate their own burrow.	<b>Present.</b> Documented as extant within Fresno County.
Alameda whipsnake ( <i>Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus</i> )	FT	Restricted to valley foothill hardwood habitat of the coast ranges between Monterey and San Francisco Bay. Species inhabits south-facing slopes and ravines where shrubs form a vegetative mosaic with trees and grasses.	<b>Absent.</b> The study area is outside of the known range of this species.
Giant garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> )	FT, CT	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches.	<b>Possible.</b> Documented as extant within Fresno, Merced and San Joaquin Counties.
<b>MAMMALS</b>			
Riparian woodrat ( <i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i> )	FE, CSC	Well-developed riparian habitats along the San Joaquin and Stanislaus Rivers.	<b>Possible.</b> Only occurs in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties along the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers.
Riparian brush rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i> )	FE, CE	Habitat for the riparian brush rabbit consists of riparian communities dominated by willow thickets ( <i>Salix spp.</i> ), California wild rose ( <i>Rosa californica</i> ), Pacific blackberry ( <i>Rubus vitifolius</i> ), wild grape ( <i>Vitis californica</i> ), Douglas' coyote bush ( <i>Baccharis douglasii</i> ) and various grasses. A captive breeding program is in place in certain locations along the San Joaquin River.	<b>Possible.</b> Only occurs in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties along the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers.
Giant kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys ingens</i> )	FE, CE	San Joaquin River Annual grassland on gentle slopes of generally less than 10°, with friable, sandy-loam soils. However, most remaining populations are on poorer, marginal habitats which include shrub communities on a variety of soil types and on slopes up to about 22°.	<b>Possible.</b> Some suitable habitats may be present in the southern portion of the study area.
San Joaquin kit fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	FE, CT	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Need loose-textured sandy soils for burrowing, and suitable prey base.	<b>Present.</b> CNDDB records indicate that this species is presumed extant in Fresno, Merced,

			Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.
Fresno kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratoideus exilis</i> )	FE, CE	Prefers arid, alkaline plains with sparse vegetation, where it consumes seeds of annuals and shrubs, including saltbush. There are no known populations within the circumscribed historical geographic range in Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties. A single male Fresno kangaroo rat was captured twice in autumn 1992 on the Alkali Sink Ecological Reserve, west of Fresno.	<b>Unlikely.</b> The study area occupies part of this species historical range. However, the absence of detections since 1992 in spite of intense survey efforts suggests that it may now be extinct.

\*Adapted from CNDDB, 2009 and USFWS list for project area USGS quadrangles.

#### DEFINITIONS OF OCCURRENCE INDICATORS

Present: Species observed on the study area at time of field surveys or during recent past.

Likely: Species not observed on the study area, but it may reasonably be expected to occur there on a regular basis.

Possible: Species not observed on the study area, but it could occur there from time to time.

Unlikely: Species not observed on the study area, and would not be expected to occur there except, perhaps, as a transient.

Absent: Species not observed on the study area, and precluded from occurring there because habitat requirements not met.

#### LISTING STATUS CODES

FE: Federally Endangered

FT: Federally Threatened

FD: Federally Delisted

CE: State Endangered

CT: State Threatened

**Giant Garter Snake** USFWS published a proposal to list the giant garter snake as an endangered species on December 27, 1991 (USFWS 1991) (56 FR 67046). The Service reevaluated the status of the snake before adopting the final rule, which was listed as a threatened species on October 20, 1993 (USFWS 1993) (58 FR 54053).

Endemic to wetlands in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, the giant garter snake inhabits marshes, sloughs, ponds, small lakes, low gradient streams, and other waterways and agricultural wetlands, such as irrigation and drainage canals, rice fields and the adjacent uplands (USFWS 1999).

Giant garter snakes formerly occurred throughout the wetlands that were extensive and widely distributed in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley floors of California (Fitch 1940; Hansen and Brode 1980; Rossman and Stewart 1987). The historical range of the snake is believed to have extended from the vicinity of Chico, in Butte County, southward to Buena Vista Lake, near Bakersfield, in Kern County (Fitch 1940; Fox 1948; Hansen and Brode 1980; Rossman and Stewart 1987). Early collecting localities of the giant garter snake coincide with the distribution of large flood basins, particularly riparian marsh or slough habitats and associated tributary streams (Hansen and Brode 1980). Loss of habitat due to wetlands reclamation, agricultural activities and flood control have extirpated the snake from the southern one third of its range in former wetlands associated with the historic Buena Vista, Tulare, and Kern lake beds (Hansen 1980; Hansen and Brode 1980).

**Other Terrestrial Species** Vernal pool tadpole shrimp, Vernal pool fairy shrimp, Longhorn fairy shrimp, and Conservancy fairy shrimp require vernal pool habitats. The host plant for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is common throughout the region.

California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard could be within the Proposed Action area.

Riparian woodrat, riparian brush rabbit, and giant kangaroo rat could potentially be within the Proposed Action area.

San Joaquin kit fox could potentially be within the Proposed Action area.

### **3.4.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Under the No Action Alternative, this non-CVP water would not be conveyed or stored in CVP facilities. There would be no impacts to biological resources since conditions would remain the same as existing conditions.

#### ***Proposed Action***

There would be no impacts to biological resources. Most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) do not occur in the Proposed Action area. The Proposed Action would not involve the conversion of any land fallowed and untilled for three or more years. The Proposed Action also would not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do have some value to listed species or birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Due to the fact that the Exchange Agreement and/or Warren Act contract related water would not reach streams containing listed fish species, there would be no effects to these species. No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Proposed Action and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat would be affected.

Potential effects to giant garter snakes would be expected only if the water quality parameters exceed concentrations or levels identified as toxic or of concern (e.g., CVRWQCB 1998, USBR 2004b, USFWS and NMFS 2000, USFWS 2008). Daily water quality monitoring, with the requirement of pumps ceasing if water quality objectives are exceeded, however, would avoid such effects to the species. A brief “lag time” between detection of the exceedance (and the resultant shutting down of pumps) and the subsequent reduction in contaminant concentration would be no more than a day or two and would not cause any effect over the extremely short duration before the water quality standards are returned to the target levels.

There would be no new pumps or construction under the Proposed Action. There would be no effects to the giant garter snake due to groundwater overdraft, under this short term action, because groundwater would remain within the district.

The short duration of the water availability, the requirement that no native lands be converted without consultation with USFWS, and the stringent requirements for water quality would preclude any impacts to wildlife, whether federally listed or not.

## **3.5 Cultural Resources**

### **3.5.1 Affected Environment**

A cultural resource is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is the primary Federal legislation that outlines the Federal Government’s responsibility to cultural

resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal Government to take into consideration the effects of an undertaking on cultural resources listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Those resources that are on or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP are referred to as historic properties.

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the Federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. In summary, Reclamation must first determine if the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties. If the action is the type of action to affect historic properties, Reclamation must identify the area of potential effects (APE), determine if historic properties are present within that APE, determine the effect that the undertaking will have on historic properties, and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office, to seek concurrence on Reclamation's findings. In addition, Reclamation is required through the Section 106 process to consult with Indian Tribes concerning the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance, and consult with individuals or groups who are entitled to be consulting parties or have requested to be consulting parties.

The SJV is rich in historical and prehistoric cultural resources. Cultural resources in this area are generally prehistoric in nature and include remnants of native human populations that existed before European settlement. Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, many Native American tribes inhabited the Central Valley. It is possible that many cultural resources lie undiscovered across the valley. The SJV supported extensive populations of Native Americans, principally the Northern Valley Yokuts, in the prehistoric period. Cultural studies in the SJV have been limited. The conversion of land and intensive farming practices over the last century may have destroyed many Native American cultural sites.

The DMC is a component of the CVP which is being evaluated for the NRHP. The DMC, completed in 1951, carries water southeasterly from the Tracy Pumping Plant along the west side of the SJV for irrigation supply, for use in the San Luis Unit, and to replace SJR water stored at Friant Dam and used in the Friant-Kern and Madera systems. The canal is about 117 miles long and terminates at the Mendota Pool, about 30 miles west of Fresno. The initial diversion capacity is 4,600 cfs, which is gradually decreased to 3,211 cfs at the terminus (Reclamation. 2007).

### **3.5.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

The No Action Alternative would not change nor modify the DMC and has no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

#### ***Proposed Action***

The Proposed Action is an administrative action that would allow for the flow of water through existing facilities to existing users. There would be no ground disturbance or modification needed to the existing facilities as a result of this action nor would there be any changes in cropping patterns or urban development. As a result there would be no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). There would be no impacts to cultural resources as a result of implementing the Proposed Action.

## **3.6 Indian Trust Assets**

### **3.6.1 Affected Environment**

Indian Trust Assets (ITA) are legal interests in property held in trust by the U.S. for federally-recognized Indian tribes or individual Indians. An Indian trust has three components: (1) the trustee, (2) the beneficiary, and (3) the trust asset. ITA can include land, minerals, federally-reserved hunting and fishing rights, federally-reserved water rights, and in-stream flows associated with trust land. Beneficiaries of the Indian trust relationship are federally-recognized Indian tribes with trust land; the U.S. is the trustee. By definition, ITA cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise encumbered without approval of the U.S. The characterization and application of the U.S. trust relationship have been defined by case law that interprets Congressional acts, executive orders, and historic treaty provisions.

The nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria approximately 35 miles west northwest of the Proposed Action location. The nearest ITA is determined by using the distance from the boundary of the district that is closest to an ITA.

### **3.6.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no impacts to ITA as there are none in the study area.

#### ***Proposed Action***

There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the water involved with this action, nor is there such a property interest in the lands designated to receive the water proposed in this action. This action would have no adverse effect on Indian Trust Assets.

## **3.7 Socioeconomic Resources**

### **3.7.1 Affected Environment**

The agricultural industry significantly contributes to the overall economic stability of the SJV. The CVP allocations each year allow farmers to plan for the types of crops to grow and to secure loans to purchase supplies. The economic variances may include fluctuating agricultural prices, insect infestation, changing hydrologic conditions, increased fuel and power costs.

Per the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency (2009), the SJV economic region grew by 7.51 percent from 2001 to 2007. Government was the largest employer. Agriculture, forestry and fishing ranked second. Retail trade came in third with Health Care and Social assistance ranking fourth (See Table 3-4).

**Table 3-10 Job Distribution (2007) and Growth by Industry Sector (2001-2007)***Listed by 2007 employment size*

INDUSTRY SECTOR	% OF ALL JOBS	JOB GROWTH	INDUSTRY SECTOR	% OF ALL JOBS	JOB GROWTH
Government	19.7%	8.1%	Transportation & Warehousing	3.0%	6.5%
Ag, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	13.8%	0.1%	Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	2.7%	23.1%
Retail Trade	10.7%	8.9%	Finance & Insurance	2.4%	10.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	9.2%	12.1%	Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1.2%	5.4%
Manufacturing	8.5%	0.2%	Information	1.1%	1.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	6.6%	9.4%	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0.8%	7.2%
Construction	5.8%	32.2%	Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.8%	-38.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	4.4%	14.3%	Educational Services	0.8%	29.0%
Other Services (except Public Admin)	3.8%	16.7%	Mining	0.8%	-2.3%
Wholesale Trade	3.3%	13.8%	Utilities	0.5%	9.6%

(California Labor &amp; Workforce Development Agency 2009)

Table 3-5 is the labor market information for the counties included in the Proposed Action area.

**Table 3-11 County-Level Socioeconomic Data**

County	2008 Population (estimate)	2009 Labor Force	2009 Employment	1999 Per Capita Income (most recent available)	2009 Unemployment Rate (%)
Contra Costa	1,029,703	529,200	469,800	\$30,615	11.2
Alameda	1,474,368	766,300	680,500	\$26,680	11.2
San Joaquin	672,388	302,600	251,400	\$17,365	16.9
Stanislaus	510,694	240,500	199,100	\$16,913	17.2
Merced	246,117	107,400	87,700	\$14,257	18.3
Madera	148,333	67,500	57,400	\$14,682	15.0
Fresno	909,153	442,400	369,300	\$15,495	16.5
California	36,756,666	18,365,000	16,164,300	\$22,711	12.0

Sources: Census Bureau 2009, EDD 2009

### 3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

#### **No Action**

Reclamation would not approve Exchange Agreements or Warren Act contracts to convey and store non-CVP water in CVP facilities. Non-CVP water could still be pumped and distributed to other areas to supplement the diminished CVP water supply. However, this could increase costs to the Water Districts to distribute to other areas. Demand for local labor and farm supplies would be reduced. Under the No Action Alternative, there could be temporary impacts to socioeconomic resources due to fallowing of 30,000 acre. However, this could change with the hydrological conditions.

### ***Proposed Action***

Under the Proposed Action, participating districts could convey and store non-CVP water in CVP facilities to supplement their CVP water supply. The 2010 Warren Act contracts would allow the non-CVP water to be distributed to sustain permanent crops. This would help maintain agriculture in this agricultural area.

## **3.8 Environmental Justice**

### **3.8.1 Affected Environment**

Executive Order 12898, dated February 11, 1994, requires Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not disproportionately impact minority and disadvantaged populations. The population of some small communities typically increases during late summer harvest. The market for seasonal workers on local farms draws thousands of migrant workers, commonly of Hispanic origin from Mexico and Central America. Table 3-6 characterizes the area by county (US Census Bureau 2009).

Table 3-12 Community Characteristics by County

	<b>Contra Costa</b>		<b>Alameda</b>		<b>San Joaquin</b>		<b>Stanislaus</b>	
<b>General Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
White		71.7		56.4		72.7		86.8
Black or African American		9.7		13.5		8.0		3.2
American Indian/Alaskan Native		0.8		0.7		1.40		1.6
Asian		13.7		24.9		13.8		5.0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		0.5		0.8		0.5		0.60
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)		22.9		21.8		37.0		39.6
Two or more races		3.6		3.8		3.5		2.8
Average household size	2.72		2.71		3		3.03	
Median household income	\$76,317		\$68,263		\$51,874		\$50,367	
Individuals below poverty level		8.7		11.0		14.4		13.6
	<b>Merced</b>		<b>Madera</b>		<b>Fresno</b>		<b>California</b>	
<b>General Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
White		85		87.7		81.2		76.6
Black or African American		4.10		4.50		5.8		6.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native		1.60		3.30		2.0		1.2
Asian		6.60		2.10		8.7		12.5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		0.30		0.30		0.2		0.4
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)		52.90		50.80		48.7		36.6
Two or more races		2.40		2.20		2.1		2.6
Average household size	3.25		3.18		3.09		2.87	
Median household income	\$43,789		\$44,259		\$46,547		\$59,928	
Individuals below poverty level		19.3		16.9		20		12.4

### **3.8.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve of Exchange Agreements or Warren Act contract under this Pump-in Program. The Districts could continue to pump their groundwater. This could help maintain agricultural production and local employment.

#### ***Proposed Action***

Implementing the Proposed Action would not cause any harm to minority or disadvantaged populations within the Proposed Action area. An Exchange Agreement or Warren Act contract would allow the water districts to use their non-CVP water for irrigation in their service area. The availability of this water would help maintain agricultural production and local employment if 2010 is a dry year. Therefore, there would be no adverse impact from the Proposed Action.

## **3.9 Global Climate Change**

### **3.9.1 Affected Environment**

Climate change refers to significant change in measures of climate (e.g., temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for decades or longer. Many environmental changes can contribute to climate change (changes in sun's intensity, changes in ocean circulation, deforestation, urbanization, burning fossil fuels, etc.) (EPA 2008a).

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often called greenhouse gases (GHG). Some GHG such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other GHG (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHG that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are: CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gasses (EPA 2008a).

During the past century humans have substantially added to the amount of GHG in the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, oil and gasoline to power our cars, factories, utilities and appliances. The added gases, primarily CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>, are enhancing the natural greenhouse effect, and likely contributing to an increase in global average temperature and related climate changes. There are uncertainties associated with the science of climate change (EPA 2008b).

More than 20 million Californians rely on the SWP and CVP. Increases in air temperature may lead to changes in precipitation patterns, runoff timing and volume, sea level rise, and changes in the amount of irrigation water needed due to modified evapotranspiration rates. These changes may lead to impacts to California's water resources and project operations.

While there is general consensus in their trend, the magnitudes and onset-timing of impacts are uncertain and are scenario-dependent (Anderson et al. 2008).

### **3.9.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Reclamation would not approve Exchange Agreements or Warren Act contracts to convey and store non-CVP water in CVP facilities. Non-CVP water could not be distributed to other areas to supplement the diminished CVP water supply.

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have no change on the composition of the atmosphere and therefore would have no direct or indirect effects to climate.

### ***Proposed Action***

The Proposed Action would involve no physical changes to the environment, no construction activities, and therefore, would not impact global climate change. However, global climate change is expected to have some effect on the snow pack of the Sierra Nevadas and the run off regime. Current data are not yet clear on the hydrologic changes and how they will affect the San Joaquin Valley. Water allocations are made dependent on hydrologic conditions and environmental requirements. Since Reclamation operations and allocations are flexible, any changes in hydrologic conditions due to global climate change would be addressed within Reclamation's operation flexibility and therefore surface water resource changes due to climate change would be the same with or without the Proposed Action.

## **3.10 Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts result from incremental impacts of a Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment.

To determine whether cumulatively significant impacts are anticipated from the Proposed Action, the incremental effect of the Proposed Action was examined together with impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the same geographic area.

Reclamation's action would be the approval of Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts for conveyance and storage of non-CVP water. Subsequent actions are beyond Reclamation's approval and authority. Reclamation has made Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts available in previous years when excess capacity was available. Most likely in 2010, more districts will request Warren Act contracts since it may be a dry year and groundwater is needed to supplement the reduced CVP supply. This is a two-year action, and the cumulative amount the districts are limited to, under this Proposed Action, is 50,000 AF. However, districts can request a Warren Act contract separate from this Proposed Action for up to 10,000 AF of non-CVP water, but this action would be analyzed in a separate environmental document. Additionally, in accordance with the Warren Act contract, Reclamation would continue to make these contracts available to requesting districts in future years, given that each district meets present and future requirements for Warren Act contracts.

Agricultural run-off and groundwater pump-in would have cumulative water quality effects to the Mendota Pool; however, the Contracting Officer would terminate conveyance should water quality exceed applicable water quality standards.

Reclamation has approved transfers and Warren Act contracts in previous years when excess capacity was available (see Table 3-13).

**Table 3-13 Warren Act Contracts and Transfers Proposed between 2007-2009**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Warren Acts	3	9	6	15
Transfers	7	4	4	8
Used DMC	1	5	5	2

In 2009, Reclamation received 15 requests for Warren Act contracts and 8 requests for transfers. Two of these requests propose to use the DMC as a conveyance facility. Many of these requests are still under analysis and have not been completed at this time. Reclamation did approve the transfer of 3,700 AF of PID's Replacement Water to Del Puerto Water Storage District via the DMC.

***Requests still pending for use of the DMC include:***

- A 40-year Warren Act contract for conveyance of 4,500 AFY of Byron Bethany Irrigation District's non-CVP Delta water through the DMC to the City of Tracy's Water Treatment Plant. This proposed action includes an easement for placement of a new discharge pipeline at the headwall of the DMC.
- A transfer of up to 20,500 AF of Central California Irrigation District's (CCID) Exchange Contract CVP supplies to Westlands Water District, San Luis Water District, Panoche Water District, and Del Puerto Water District for the period April through December 2010 and April through December 2011. Certain landowners within CCID would pump up to 75 cfs of groundwater to meet in-district demands in lieu of CCID taking surface water deliveries. The groundwater would be discharged into CCID's conveyance system freeing up its CVP water under the San Joaquin Exchange Contractor's Contract to be delivered to the districts via the DMC and/or the San Luis Canal.
- PID has requested a temporary four-year Warren Act for storage and conveyance of up to 10,000 AF of their pre-1914 San Joaquin River water between Contract Water Years 2010 through 2015 (March 1, 2010-February 28, 2016). The additional non-CVP water conveyed in the DMC from PID's pre-1914 surface water rights water supplies would allow supplemental non-CVP water supplies to irrigate crops within their district boundaries.

***Other potential projects in the area:***

WWD is preparing an Environmental Impact Report to convey a maximum of 100,000 AF/y of groundwater that may be delivered into the California Aqueduct during any single year. However, actual annual project volume may be less than this maximum value. Pumping would occur mostly between the months of May and September. However, to provide flexibility in water supply, pumping and conveyance may occur in other months. WWD has about 600 operational groundwater wells. Only 15 percent of the total number of wells within WWD would participate in this project initially, and WWD would cap participation at 20 percent. The project area makes it feasible to include all the wells in WWD. Additional wells may be drilled in the future, primarily to replace wells that become less productive or that fail to meet required water quality standards.

Adjacent landowner pumping contributes lower quality groundwater in Mendota Pool. Overall, however, after considering all sources of water quality impacts to Mendota Pool, the constituent concentrations due to the Proposed Action are small changes for a brief period of time and would not approach water quality screening criteria.

In California, authority for managing different aspects of groundwater and surface water resources is separated among federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies. For example, State Water Resources Control Board regulates surface water rights dating from 1914, but not rights prior to 1914; Regional Water Quality Control Board regulates groundwater quality, but not the rights to use groundwater; County groundwater ordinances and local agency groundwater management plans often only apply to a portion of the groundwater basin, and counties or local agencies with overlapping boundaries of responsibility within the same groundwater basin do not necessarily have consistent management objectives in their groundwater ordinances or management plans; and, except in adjudicated basins and areas with adopted groundwater management plans, individuals have few restrictions on how much groundwater they can use, provided the water is put to beneficial use. Because of the connection between surface water and groundwater, the unmanaged groundwater use will eventually affect other water users and may have significant impacts on the environment and economy (2009b).

Without adequate knowledge of storage, distribution, depletion, and replenishment of groundwater resources as well as various other local and regional geologic and hydrologic factors, the effect of current and future activities on groundwater resources cannot be adequately predicted (Boyle Engineering Corporation 2007).

It is not known at this time the level of subsidence threshold that would cause a significant impact on the environment and economy.

The cumulative effects of groundwater pumping and continued application of irrigation water to agricultural lands would contribute indirectly to the current groundwater conditions, and future trends as a result of decisions to be made regarding overdraft.

Under Reclamation's monitoring program, data would be collected to fill gaps in information as they relate to subsidence and groundwater quality, and changes made in order to safely maintain water quality and water levels above subsidence thresholds.

## **Section 4 Public Review Period**

Reclamation posted the draft EA/FONSI for public review and comment on Reclamation's website. The public review period began February 19, 2010 and ended March 4, 2010. Reclamation did not receive any comments during the review period.

## **Section 5 Consultation and Coordination**

### **5.1 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC § 661 et seq.)**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) requires that Reclamation consult with fish and wildlife agencies (federal and state) on all water resource development projects that could affect

biological resources. The Proposed Action does not involve any new impoundment or diversion of waters, channel deepening, or other control or modification of a stream or body of water as described in the statute, but only the movement of non-CVP water through CVP facilities. Therefore the FWCA does not apply.

## **5.2 Endangered Species Act (16 USC §1531 et seq.)**

Section 7 of this Act requires Federal agencies to ensure that all federally associated activities within the U.S. do not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species. Action agencies must consult with the USFWS, which maintains current lists of species that have been designated as threatened or endangered, to determine the potential impacts a project may have on protected species. The Proposed Action would have no effect to threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats, based on the lack of construction and the implementation of stringent water quality standards.

## **5.3 National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC § 470 et seq.)**

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the Federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. In summary, Reclamation must first determine if the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties. If the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties, Reclamation must identify the APE, determine if historic properties are present within that APE, determine the effect that the undertaking would have on historic properties, and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office, to seek concurrence on Reclamation's findings. In addition, Reclamation is required through the Section 106 process to consult with Indian Tribes concerning the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance, and consult with individuals or groups who are entitled to be consulting parties or have requested to be consulting parties. No construction, new land use, or new ground disturbing activities would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, the proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties (36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)).

## **5.4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC § 703 et seq.)**

The MBTA implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico and the former Soviet Union for the protection of migratory birds. Unless permitted by regulations, the MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. Subject to limitations in the MBTA, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) may adopt regulations determining the extent to which, if at all, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, transporting or exporting of any migratory bird, part, nest or egg will be allowed, having regard for temperature zones, distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits and migratory flight patterns.

The Proposed Action would have no effect on birds protected by the MBTA, based on the lack of construction and the implementation of stringent water quality standards.

## **5.5 Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990 - Protection of Wetlands**

Executive Order 11988 requires Federal agencies to prepare floodplain assessments for actions located within or affecting flood plains, and similarly, Executive Order 11990 places similar requirements for actions in wetlands. This action would not adversely affect floodplains or wetlands.

## **5.6 Clean Water Act (16 USC § 703 et seq.)**

### ***Section 401***

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act [CWA] (33 USC § 1311) prohibits the discharge of any pollutants into navigable waters, except as allowed by permit issued under sections 402 and 404 of the CWA (33 USC § 1342 and 1344). If new structures (e.g., treatment plants) are proposed, that would discharge effluent into navigable waters, relevant permits under the CWA would be required for the project applicant(s). Section 401 requires any applicant for an individual United States Army Corps of Engineers dredge and fill discharge permit to first obtain certification from the state that the activity associated with dredging or filling will comply with applicable state effluent and water quality standards. This certification must be approved or waived prior to the issuance of a permit for dredging and filling.

### ***Section 404***

Section 404 of the CWA authorizes the United States Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits to regulate the discharge of “dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States” (33 USC § 1344).

The Proposed Action does not involve discharge into waters of the United States or wetlands; hence, no permit would be required.

## **5.7 Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7506 (C))**

Section 176 of the CAA requires that any entity of the Federal government that engages in, supports, or in any way provided financial support for, licenses or permits, or approves any activity to demonstrate that the action conforms to the applicable SIP required under Section 110 (a) of the CAA (42 USC 7401 (a)) before the action is otherwise approved. In this context, conformity means that such federal actions must be consistent with a SIP’s purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS and achieving expeditious attainment of those standards. Each federal agency must determine that any action that is proposed by the agency and that is subject to the regulations implementing the conformity requirements will, in fact conform to the applicable SIP before the action is taken.

There would be no impacts to air quality; therefore, a conformity analysis is not required.

## **Section 6 List of Preparers and Reviewers**

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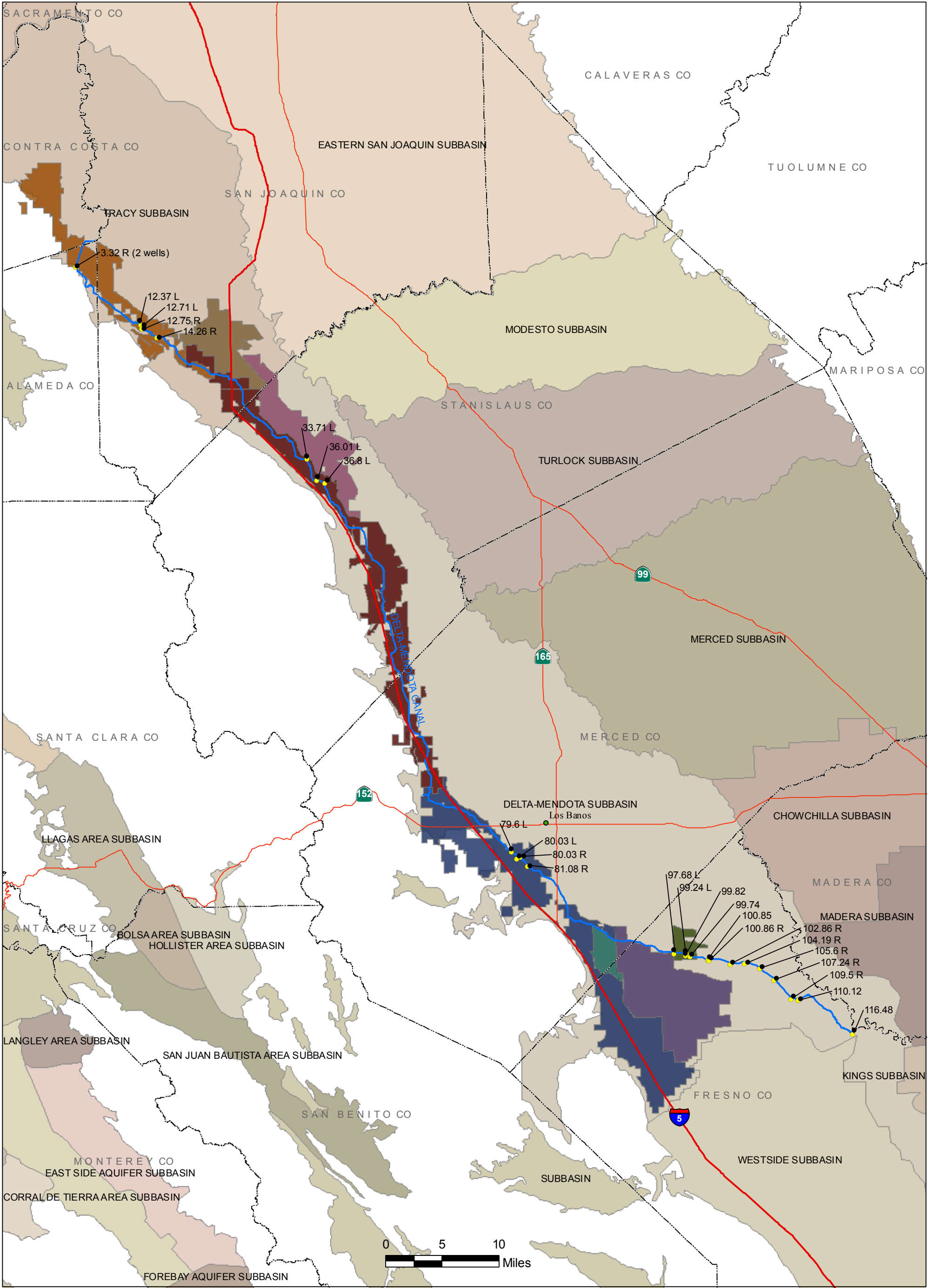
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# **Appendix A – Groundwater Basins and Well Locations**



- Groundwater Well

Milepost, Bank (R or L)

County Boundary

Delta-Mendota Canal

Banta-Carbona I.D.

Byron-Bethany I.D.

Del Puerto W.D.
- Mercy Springs W.D.
- Pacheco W.D.
- Panoche W.D.
- San Luis W.D.
- West Stanislaus I.D.

# DMC Pump-in Project



# **Appendix B – Delta-Mendota Canal 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Groundwater**

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **2010 Delta-Mendota Canal Pump-in Program Water Quality Monitoring Plan**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
South-Central California Area Office

Revised: 19 Feb 2010

**Mission Statements**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Authority	San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority
°C	degrees Celsius
DMC	Delta-Mendota Canal
DMC Headworks	DMC Milepost 2.5, Jones Pumping Plant
DMC Check 13	DMC Milepost 70, O'Neill Forebay
DMC Check 20	DMC Milepost 111, near Firebaugh
DMC Check 21	DMC Milepost 116, terminus at Mendota Pool
COC	chain of custody
CVP	Central Valley Project
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
EC	electrical conductivity, $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Exchange Contractors	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
mg/L	milligrams per liter, equivalent to parts per million
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QCO	Quality Control Officer
Reclamation	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Board	California EPA, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board
TDS	Total dissolved solids, mg/L
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
$\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$	micrograms per liter, equivalent to parts per billion
$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	microSiemens per cm, salinity in water



# 2010 Delta-Mendota Canal Pump-in Program Water Quality Monitoring Plan

## Introduction

The overall supply of Central Valley Project (CVP) water has been reduced by drought and restrictions on pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Under the Warren Act of 1911, Reclamation may execute temporary contracts to convey non-project water in the federal Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) to farms to help sustain crops. Reclamation will also enter into exchange agreements in which groundwater pumped into the DMC will be exchanged with Reclamation for CVP water in San Luis Reservoir and delivered to from the San Luis Canal. In 2010, Reclamation will accept groundwater in the DMC subject to the monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in this document.

This document describes the plan for measuring the changes in the quality of water in the canal caused by the conveyance of groundwater during 2010, plus changes in groundwater elevation to estimate subsidence. Various agencies will use the data to determine the water quality conditions in the Delta-Mendota Canal, Mendota Pool, and wetlands water supply channels, and physical condition of local groundwater resources.

This document has been prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority), and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), with assistance from staff of Banta Carbona Irrigation District, Del Puerto Water District, San Luis Water District, and Panoche Water District. This monitoring plan will be conducted by staff of Reclamation, the Authority, and Water Districts and will complement independent monitoring by other Federal, State, and private agencies.

Several sampling techniques will be used to collect samples of water, including real-time, grab, and composite. The techniques used at each location are summarized in Section 3.

Continuous measurement of specific conductance (salinity) will be recorded at four stations in the canal using sondes connected to digital data loggers. The data will be averaged every 15 minutes, sent via satellite to the California Data Exchange Center where it will be posted in the Internet as preliminary data:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/queryDaily.html>

Central Valley Operations Office will post the daily average salinity measurements on its website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/wqrpt.html>

The real-time data will be collected by Reclamation and used in a mass balance to calculate and predict water quality conditions. The calculated results will be reported to various agencies, and compared with independent field measurements collected by the Reclamation, the Exchange Contractors, US Geological Survey, and California EPA Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).

Reclamation will operate autosamplers at four locations along the DMC and Mendota Pool that will collect daily composite samples for measurement of selenium and salinity.

Reclamation and the Regional Board will collect grab samples from various locations in the watershed to measure many other parameters.

Reclamation will use the data to assess changes in water quality and groundwater conditions caused by the 2010 DMC Pump-in Program, and will implement the terms and conditions of the 2010 Warren Act Contracts, exchange agreements, and the 15 January 2010 Letter from the Exchange Contractors to Reclamation (Appendix A).

## **Background**

The Delta Division of the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) delivers water to almost a million acres of farmland in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The CVP is also the sole source of clean water for state and federal wildlife refuges and many private wetlands in Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.

The source of water for the Division is delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. This water is suitable in quality for irrigation and wetlands. The region is regularly affected by droughts that reduce the supply of water for the region. Environmental regulations also restrict the operation of the Jones Pumping Plant to divert water from the delta into the DMC. The salinity of water in the Delta is highly variable due to the influence of tides and outflow of river water.

The Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) carries CVP water to farms, communities, and wetlands between Tracy and Mendota. The 116 mile canal is operated and maintained by the Authority under contract with Reclamation. Inflows of tailwater and subsurface water add contaminants to the DMC.

Under normal conditions, Reclamation delivers approximately 3 million acre-feet of water within the Authority's service area. Of this amount, 2.5 million acre-feet are delivered to agricultural lands, 150,000 to 200,000 acre-feet for municipal and industrial uses, and between 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet are delivered to wildlife refuges for habitat enhancement and restoration.

The districts and refuges in the Delta Division use groundwater to supplement their contractual supply from the CVP. Three Delta Division districts also have riparian rights to water in the San Joaquin River. These other supplies of water are called "Non-Project Water" because they have not been appropriated by the United States for the purposes of the CVP.

The Warren Act of 1911<sup>(1)</sup> authorizes Reclamation to execute temporary contracts to impound, store, and carry water in federal irrigation canals when excess capacity is available. Reclamation will also execute exchange agreements per CVPIA<sup>2</sup> in which Reclamation exchanges CVP water in San Luis Reservoir delivered to districts on the San Luis Canal for groundwater pumped into the DMC. Such contracts and exchange agreements will be negotiated by Reclamation with Delta Division water districts to allow the introduction of non-project water into the DMC to supplement the diminished supply of CVP water. This has helped farmers deliver enough water to irrigate and sustain valuable permanent crops like grapes, citrus, and deciduous fruit, and to sustain the local multi-billion dollar farming economy.

The quality of local groundwater is variable and must be measured to confirm that there will be no harm to downstream water users when the non-project water is pumped into the canal. Reclamation has developed a set of standards for the acceptance of non-project water in the Delta-Mendota Canal based on the requirements of downstream water users.

In 2010, environmental regulations and climate change have reduced the supply of surface water for the Central Valley Project. Water managers now must depend on groundwater to supplement surface water for irrigation. However, continuous pumping of groundwater can quickly reduce local aquifers and can cause irreversible damage to facilities through subsidence.

In 2010, Reclamation will require more detailed information about each source of groundwater and more monitoring of the aquifer to measure overdraft, prevent subsidence, and determine the feasibility of continuing this program in the future. Staff from the Authority and water districts will be required to take regular measurements of depth to groundwater, pump rates, and in-stream salinity measurements.

This Monitoring Plan will ensure that monitoring data will measure any changes in the quality of CVP water in the DMC and Mendota Pool.

### **Monitoring Mission and Goals**

The mission of this monitoring program is to produce physical measurements that will determine the changes in the quality of the water in canal caused by the conveyance of groundwater during 2010. The data will be used to implement the terms of the 2010 Warren Act Contracts and exchange agreements, and to ensure that the quality of CVP water is commensurate with the needs and expectations of water users.

The monitoring program will also deal with changes to groundwater resources to identify and prevent long-term problems to local aquifers and facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Act of February 21, 1911, ch. 141, 36 Stat. 925

<sup>2</sup> Section 3405(a) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575)

## **Program Goals**

The general goals of monitoring are:

- Evaluate the quality of water in each well, and
- Confirm that the blend of CVP water and groundwater is suitable for domestic, agricultural, and wetlands uses.
- Provide reliable data for regulation of the 2010 DMC Pump-in Program to prevent contamination problems
- Provide measurements of groundwater dynamics (depth, recharge) to identify overdraft and subsidence

## **Study Area**

The Study Area for this program encompasses the Delta-Mendota Canal from Tracy to Mendota, and the Mendota Pool. The canal is divided into two reaches in relation to the O'Neill Forebay and the connection to the State Water Project.

## **Water Quality Standards**

Non-project water must meet the standards listed in Tables 6 and 7. The lists have been developed by Reclamation to measure constituents of concern that would affect downstream water users. In particular, the concentration of selenium in any pump-in water shall not exceed 2 ug/L, the limit for the Grasslands wetlands water supply channels specified in the 1998 Basin Plan.<sup>3</sup> The salinity of each source of pump-in water shall not exceed 1500 mg/L TDS.

## **Water Quality Monitoring Plan**

### **In-stream Monitoring**

The quality of water in the DMC will be measured at the locations listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Reclamation will operate and maintain the real-time stations listed in Table 1. Based on available funding, Reclamation will continue to collect water samples at the sites listed in Table 2 under the DMC Water Quality Monitoring Program. Reclamation will be responsible for the costs of sampling and analysis of water sampled from the DMC.

Table 3 is a list of places along the canal near clusters of wells that could pump into the canal under this program. If the real-time monitoring is not sufficient to identify in-stream changes in quality caused by the addition of groundwater, Reclamation may require weekly measurements at the checks listed in table 3 to determine local effects

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<sup>3</sup> California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Fourth Edition of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins.

from groups of wells. For example, if the quantity of CVP water in the canal is limited, Reclamation will require detailed monitoring to identify the individual and cumulative changes in water quality caused by the addition of groundwater.

**Table 1. Real-Time Monitoring Stations**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Operating Agency</b>	<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
DMC Headworks	CVO	EC	Real-time	CDEC Site: DMC
DMC Milepost 70 (Check 13)	CVO	EC	Real-time	CDEC site : ONI
DMC Milepost 111.3 (Check 20)	CVO	EC	Real-time	CDEC site : DM2
DMC Milepost 116.5 (Check 21)	CVO	EC	Real-time	CDEC site : DM3

Key:

CDEC: California Data Exchange Center

CVO: Central Valley Operations Office

**Table 2. Water Quality Monitoring Stations**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Operating Agency</b>	<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
DMC Milepost 3.46	Reclamation	EC, selenium	Daily composite	Autosampler
DMC Milepost 68 (McCabe Road)	Reclamation	Various	Monthly	Grab sample
DMC Milepost 70 (Check 13)	Reclamation	EC, selenium	Daily composite	Autosampler
DMC Milepost 97.7 (Russell Ave)	Reclamation	EC, selenium, boron, mercury	Monthly	Grab sample
DMC Milepost 110.1 (Washoe Ave)	Reclamation	EC, selenium, boron, mercury	Monthly	Grab sample
DMC Milepost 116.5 (Check 21)	Reclamation	EC, selenium	Daily composite	Autosampler
Mendota Pool (CCID Main Canal at Bass Ave)	Reclamation	EC, selenium	Daily composite	Autosampler

Key: Reclamation: MP-157 Environmental Monitoring Branch

**Table 3. In-Stream Monitoring Stations (Optional)**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
DMC Milepost 16.2 (Check 2)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 20.6 (Check 3)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 34.4 (Check 6)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 38.7 (Check 7)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 48.6 (Check 9)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 64.0 (Check 12)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 85.1 (Check 16)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement
DMC Milepost 100.9 (Telles Bridge)	SLDMWA	EC	Weekly	Field measurement

Key:

SLDMWA: San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority

## **Wellhead Monitoring**

### **Initial Analysis**

All districts participating in the 2010 DMC Pump-in Program must provide the following information about each well to Reclamation prior to pumping groundwater into the DMC:

- the location of each well, pumping rate, and point of discharge in to the DMC;
- complete water quality analyses (Table 5 or 6)<sup>4</sup>
- the depth to groundwater in every well before pumping into the DMC commences.

The recommended summary forms for each well are included as Appendix 2.

Though most of the wells are privately owned, the Districts must provide access to each well for Reclamation and Authority staff.

All water samples must be sampled and preserved according to established protocols in correct containers. Analyses should be conducted by laboratories that have been approved by Reclamation, listed in Table 7. Each sample of well water must be sampled and analyzed at the expense of the well owner. Reclamation staff will review the analytical results and notify the District which wells may pump into the DMC in 2010.

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<sup>4</sup> Note: Laboratory analyses of water in each well may be measured within three years

## **Compliance Monitoring**

### **Daily Salinity**

Mean daily salinity will be assessed with the sensors along the canal that report real-time data to CDEC, listed in Table 1. Such data will be downloaded by Reclamation and the Authority to monitor changes along the canal.

### **Weekly Monitoring**

Reclamation may require weekly measurements of salinity along the DMC if the real-time sensors are not sufficient to identify changes. If necessary, Reclamation will direct the SLDMWA to measure the EC of water in the canal at the places listed in Table 3. These sites are located downstream from clusters of wells that could pump into the DMC. In addition, reclamation may also direct SLDMWA staff to measure the EC of the water in each active well

The weekly volume of groundwater pumped into the DMC from each well will be measured by the Authority and sent to Reclamation at the end of each week.

### **Selenium Monitoring**

Reclamation will continue to measure selenium in the canal and Mendota Pool with autosamplers listed in Table 2. Reclamation may collect samples of water from various active wells; the cost of these tests will be borne by Reclamation. Based on available funds, Reclamation may also measure boron daily.

### **Depth to Groundwater**

The Authority will continue to measure the depth to groundwater in each active well quarterly. Table 8 is a summary of measurements collected by the Authority between May 1995 and December 2009. The current depth to groundwater in each well will be compared to the depths listed in Table 8. If the current depth exceeds the maximum depth observed in table 8, then Reclamation direct the District to stop pumping from that well until the depth recovers to the median observed depth.

### **Data Compilation and Review**

All compliance monitoring data collected by the Authority (i.e., flow, EC, and depth of groundwater from each active well, EC in the DMC) will be entered into worksheets and presented each week to Reclamation via e-mail. Reclamation will review the data to identify changes in the quality of water in the canal and in individual wells, and potential changes in the local aquifer that could lead to overdraft or subsidence.

## **Water Quality Monitoring Parameters and Data Management**

The following sections describe the parameters for real-time and laboratory measurement of water quality, as well as methods for quality control, data management, and data reporting.

### **Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Parameter**

Reclamation and the Central Valley Operations Office have sensors along the DMC that measure salinity and temperature of water. These continuous measurements are posted on the Internet in real-time.

#### **Salinity**

Salinity is a measure of dissolved solids in water. It is the sum weight of many different elements within a given volume of water, reported in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm). Salinity is an ecological factor of considerable importance, influencing the types of organisms that live in a body of water. Also, salinity influences the kinds of plants and fish that will grow in a water body. Salinity can be estimated by measuring the electrical conductivity (EC) of the water.

Central Valley Operations Office (CVO) uses this conversion factor for estimating Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) from EC:

$$\text{TDS (mg/L)} = \text{EC } (\mu\text{S/cm}) * 0.618 + 16$$

### **Sampling For Laboratory Analyses of Water Quality**

The following sections describe constituents for laboratory analyses of water quality, as well as methods for water quality sampling and chain of custody documentation.

#### **Constituents**

Table 5 and 6 are lists of constituents to be measured at in each well that will pump into the DMC during 2010. Parameters include selenium, mercury, boron, nutrients, and other compounds that cannot be measured with field sensors. Table 7 is a list of laboratories that have been approved by Reclamation.

#### **Sampling methods**

Grab samples will be collected in a bucket or bottle from the point of discharge into the canal. Samples of canal water should be collected mid-stream from a bridge or check structure. Grab samples should be poured directly into sample bottles appropriate to the analyses. This technique is for samples collected weekly or less frequently. Reclamation will specify the sample volume, type of bottle, need for preservative, and special handling requirements. Reclamation will train field staff on proper sample collection and handling.

Time composite samples will be collected by Reclamation using an autosampler. Daily composite samples will consist of up to eight subsamples taken per day and mixed into one sample. Weekly composite samples will consist of seven daily subsamples mixed into one sample.

### **Chain of Custody documentation**

Chain of custody (COC) forms will be used to document sample collection, shipping, storage, preservation, and analysis. All individuals transferring and receiving samples will sign, date, and record the time on the COC that the samples are transferred.

Laboratory COC procedures are described in each laboratory's Quality Assurance Program Manual. Laboratories must receive the COC documentation submitted with each batch of samples and sign, date, and record the time the samples are transferred. Laboratories will also note any sample discrepancies (e.g., labeling, breakage). After generating the laboratory data report for the client, samples will be stored for a minimum of 30 days in a secured area prior to disposal.

### **Quality Control**

Reclamation will assign staff to verify the accuracy of all measurements for this program.

Quality control (QC) is the overall system of technical activities that measure the attributes and performance of a process, item, or service against defined standards to verify that stated requirements are met.

Quality assurance (QA) is an integrated system of management activities involving, planning, implementation, documentation, assessment, reporting, and quality improvement to ensure that a process, item, or service is of the type and quality needed and expected by the customer.

QA objectives will be used to validate the data for this project. The data will be accepted, rejected, or qualified based on how sample results compare to established acceptance criteria.

The precision, accuracy, and contamination criteria will be used by the QCO to validate the data for this project. The criteria will be applied to the blind external duplicate/split, blank, reference, or spiked samples submitted with the production samples to the analytical laboratories by the participating agencies to provide an independent assessment of precision, accuracy, and contamination.

Laboratories analyze their own QC samples with the client's samples. Laboratory QC samples, including laboratory fortified blanks, matrix spikes, duplicates, and method blanks, assess precision, accuracy, and contamination. Laboratory QC criteria are stated in the analytical methods or determined by each laboratory. Since internal control ranges are often updated in laboratories based on instrumentation, personnel, or other influences, it is the responsibility of the QCO to verify that these limits are well documented and appropriately updated during system audits. The preferred method of reporting the QC results is for the laboratory to provide a QC summary report with acceptance criteria for each QC parameter of interest.

For water samples, the QCO will use a statistical program to determine if current concentrations for parameters at given sites are consistent with the historical data at these

sites. A result is determined to be a historical outlier if it is greater than 3 standard deviations from the average value for the site. The presence of an outlier could indicate an error in the analytical process or a significant change in the environment.

Samples must be prepared, extracted, and analyzed within the recommended holding time for the parameter. Data may be qualified if the sample was analyzed after the holding time expires.

Completeness refers to the percentage of project data that must be successfully collected, validated, and reported to proceed with its intended use in making decisions.

Constraints with regard to time, money, safety, and personnel were some of the factors in choosing the most representative sites for this project. Monitoring sites have been selected by considering the physical, chemical, and biological boundaries that define the system under study.

Sites also were selected to be as representative of the system as possible. However, Reclamation will continue to evaluate the choice of the sites with respect to their representativeness and will make appropriate recommendations to the Contracting Officer given a belief or finding of inadequacy.

Comparability between each agency's data is enhanced through the use of Standard Operating Procedures that detail methods of collection and analysis. Each agency has chosen the best available protocol for the sampling and analyses for which it is responsible based on the agency's own expertise. Audits performed by the QCO will reinforce the methods and practices currently in place and serve to standardize techniques used by the agencies.

## **Data Management**

This program will use data from several independent sources. Each collecting agency will be responsible for its data reduction (analysis), internal data quality control, data storage, and data retrieval.

Real-Time Data – Raw data from field sensors, must be identified as preliminary, subject to change

Provisional Data - Data that have been reviewed by the collecting agency but may be changed pending re-analyses or statistical review

Laboratory Data – Data produced by the laboratory following laboratory QA/QC protocols

## **Data Reporting**

Preliminary data for each well must be compiled by each district and reported to Reclamation for review and approval. The list of approved wells will be included in the District's 2010 Warren Act contract.

In-stream data will be collected by Reclamation. Routine measurements of flow, EC, and depth of groundwater in each well will be collected by the Authority and sent to Reclamation each week.

Reclamation will compile these data in a water balance model developed by Reclamation, the Authority, and Exchange Contractors to predict the change in salinity in the canal with the addition of groundwater.

Real-time data will be used to monitor day-to-day patterns and assess actual conditions. The real-time data will be posted in regular e-mail messages to the districts and Authority. Reclamation will compile all flow, water quality, and groundwater data into a final report for future reference.

## **Data Interpretation**

Reclamation staff will review all data for the canal and all wells pumping into the canal.

In accordance with the Exchange Contractor's letter of 15 January 2010, the addition of groundwater cannot cause an increase in salinity of more than 30 mg/L in the lower DMC, nor cause the in-stream salinity to exceed 450 mg/L.

Each week, Reclamation staff will use the real-time salinity measurements (Table 1) and optional weekly in-stream measurements (Table 3) to monitor and determine the changes in water quality caused by the conveyance of groundwater in the DMC.

Reclamation will direct the Authority and the Districts to stop pumping groundwater into the upper DMC if the concentration of these constituents in the canal exceed the maximum allowable concentrations listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Maximum Allowable Concentration of Seven Constituents in the Upper DMC

Constituent	Monitoring Location	Maximum concentration in the DMC
Arsenic	McCabe Road	10 µg/L
Boron	McCabe Road	0.7 mg/L
Nitrates as N	McCabe Road	45 mg/L
Selenium	Check 13	2 µg/L
Specific conductance (EC)	Check 13	1,200 µS/cm
Sulfates	McCabe Road	250 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids*	Check 13	800 mg/L

\*Calculation:  $\text{TDS (mg/L)} = \text{EC (}\mu\text{S/cm)} \times 0.618 + 16$

Reclamation will direct the Authority and the Districts to stop pumping groundwater into the lower DMC if:

- the additional groundwater is causing an increase of 30 mg/L in TDS between Check 13 and 20, or
- the TDS of water in the canal exceeds 450 mg/L, measured at Check 20<sup>5</sup>.

Reclamation reserves the right to modify this monitoring program at any time to change.

Revised: 19 Feb 2010

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<sup>5</sup> Note: Reclamation will continue to monitor the effects of the six sumps near Firebaugh that pump subsurface groundwater into the canal.

**Table 5. Water Quality Standards for Acceptance of Groundwater into the Upper Delta-Mendota Canal Headworks to Check 13 (O'Neill Forebay)**

Constituent	Units	Maximum		Detection Limit for Reporting		CAS Registry Number	Recommended
		Contaminant	Level				Analytical Method
Primary							
Aluminum	mg/L	1	(1)	0.05	(2)	7429-90-5	EPA 200.7
Antimony	mg/L	0.006	(1)	0.006	(2)	7440-36-0	EPA 200.8
Arsenic	mg/L	0.05	(1)	0.002	(2)	7440-38-2	EPA 200.8
Barium	mg/L	1	(1)	0.1	(2)	7440-39-3	EPA 200.7
Beryllium	mg/L	0.004	(1)	0.001	(2)	7440-41-7	EPA 200.7
Boron	mg/L	0.7	(16)			7440-42-8	EPA 200.7
Cadmium	mg/L	0.005	(1)	0.001	(2)	7440-43-9	EPA 200.7
Chromium (total)	mg/L	0.05	(1)	0.01	(2)	7440-47-3	EPA 200.7
Lead	mg/L	0.015	(9)	0.005	(8)	7439-92-1	EPA 200.8
Mercury (inorganic)	mg/L	0.002	(1)	0.001	(2)	7439-97-6	EPA 245.1
Nickel	mg/L	0.1	(1)	0.01	(2)	7440-02-0	EPA 200.7
Nitrates (as NO3)	mg/L	45	(1)	2	(2)	7727-37-9	EPA 300.1
Nitrate + Nitrite (sum as nitrogen)	mg/L	10	(1)				EPA 353.2
Nitrite (as nitrogen)	mg/L	1	(1)	0.4	(2)	14797-65-0	EPA 300.1
Selenium	mg/L	0.002	(13)			7782-49-2	EPA 200.8
Thallium	mg/L	0.002	(1)	0.001	(2)	7440-28-0	EPA 200.8
Secondary							
Chloride	mg/L	250	(7)			16887-00-6	EPA 300.1
Copper	mg/L	1	(10)	0.05	(8)	7440-50-8	EPA 200.7
Iron	mg/L	0.3	(6)			7439-89-6	EPA 200.7
Manganese	mg/L	0.05	(6)			7439-96-5	EPA 200.7
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.01	(11)			7439-98-7	EPA 200.7
Silver	mg/L	0.1	(6)			7440-22-4	EPA 200.7
Sodium	mg/L	69	(15)			7440-23-5	EPA 200.7
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	2,200	(7)				SM 2510 B
Sulfate	mg/L	250	(7)			14808-79-8	EPA 300.1
TDS	mg/L	1,500	(7)				SM 2540 C
Zinc	mg/L	5	(6)			7440-66-6	EPA 200.7
Radioactivity							
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	(3)	3	(3)		SM 7110C
Organic Chemicals							
Atrazine	mg/L	0.001	(4)	0.0005	(5)	1912-24-9	EPA 508.1
Bentazon	mg/L	0.018	(4)	0.002	(5)	25057-89-0	EPA 515
Carbofuran	mg/L	0.018	(4)	0.005	(5)	1563-66-2	EPA 531.1-2
Chlordane	mg/L	0.0001	(4)	0.0001	(5)	57-74-9	EPA 505
Chlorpyrifos	µg/L	0.025	(14)			2921-88-2	EPA 8141
2, 4-D	mg/L	0.07	(4)	0.01	(5)	94-75-7	EPA 515.1-4
Diazinon	µg/L	0.16	(14)			333-41-5	EPA 507
Dibromochloropane (DBCP)	mg/L	0.0002	(4)	0.00001	(5)	96-12-8	EPA 504.1
Endrin	mg/L	0.002	(4)	0.0001	(5)	72-20-8	EPA 505
Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	mg/L	0.00005	(4)	0.00002	(5)	206-93-4	EPA 504.1
Glyphosate	mg/L	0.7	(4)	0.025	(5)	1071-83-6	EPA 547
Heptachlor	mg/L	0.00001	(4)	0.00001	(5)	76-44-8	EPA 505
Heptachlor Epoxide	mg/L	0.00001	(4)	0.00001	(5)	1024-57-3	EPA 505
Lindane	mg/L	0.0002	(4)	0.0002	(5)	58-89-9	EPA 505
Methoxychlor	mg/L	0.03	(4)	0.01	(5)	72-43-5	EPA 505
Molinate	mg/L	0.02	(4)	0.002	(5)	2212-67-1	EPA 525.2
2, 4, 5-TP (Silvex)	mg/L	0.05	(4)	0.001	(5)	93-72-1	EPA 515.1-4
Simazine	mg/L	0.004	(4)	0.001	(5)	122-34-9	EPA 508.1
Thiobencarb	mg/L	0.07	(4)	0.001	(5)	28249-77-6	EPA 525.2
Toxaphene	mg/L	0.003	(4)	0.001	(5)	8001-35-2	EPA 505

**Table 5. Water Quality Standards for Acceptance of Groundwater into the Upper Delta-Mendota Canal Headworks to Check 13 (O'Neill Forebay)**

Sources:

Title 22. The Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations specified by the State of California Health and Safety Code (Sections 4010-4037), and Administrative Code (Sections 64401 et seq.), as amended.

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Title 22. Table 64431-A (mg/L)   | (6) Title 22. Table 64449-A (mg/L) |
| (2) Title 22. Table 64432-A (mg/L)   | (7) Title 22. Table 64449-B (mg/L) |
| (3) Title 22. Table 64442 (pCi/L)    | (8) Title 22. Table 64678-A (mg/L) |
| (4) Title 22. Table 64444-A (mg/L)   | (9) Title 22. Section 64678 (d)    |
| (5) Title 22. Table 64445.1-A (mg/L) | (10) Title 22. Section 64678 (e)   |

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Fourth Edition of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins.

(13) Basin Plan, Table III-1 (ug/L) (selenium in Grasslands water supply channels)

(14) Basin Plan, Table III-2A (ug/L) (chlorpyrifos & diazinon in San Joaquin River from Mendota to Vernalis)

Ayers, R. S. and D. W. Westcot, *Water Quality for Agriculture*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 29, Rev. 1, Rome (1985).

(15) Ayers, Table 1 (mg/L) (sodium)

(16) Ayers, Table 21 (mg/L) (boron)

revised: 05 Feb 2010 SCC-107

**Table 6. Water Quality Standards for Acceptance of Groundwater into the lower Delta-Mendota Canal  
Check 13 (O'Neill Forebay) To Check 21 (Mendota Pool)**

Constituent	Units	Maximum Contaminant Level		CAS Registry Number	Recommended Analytical Method
Bicarbonate	mg/L	61	(5)	71-52-3	SM 2320 A
Boron	mg/L	0.7	(3)	7440-42-8	EPA 200.7
Calcium	mg/L	80	(5)	7440-70-2	EPA 200.5
Chloride	mg/L	40	(5)	189689-94-9	EPA 300.1
Chlorpyrifos	µg/L	0.025	(2)	2921-88-2	EPA 8141
Chromium, total	µg/L	50	(1)	7440-47-3	EPA 200.7
Diazinon	µg/L	0.16	(2)	333-41-5	EPA 507
Hardness	mg/L				calculated
Magnesium	mg/L	16	(5)	7439-95-4	EPA 200.5
Mercury	µg/L	2	(1)	7439-97-6	EPA 245.1
Molybdenum	µg/L	10	(3)	7439-98-7	EPA 200.7
Nickel	µg/L	100	(1)	7440-02-0	EPA 200.7
Nitrates (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	45	(1)	7727-37-9	EPA 300.1
Nitrite (as nitrogen)	mg/L	1	(1)	14797-65-0	EPA 300.1
pH	units	5.0 - 7.0	(5)		EPA 150.1
Potassium	mg/L	4.5	(5)	7440-09-7	EPA 200.5
SAR		<2	(5)		calculated
Selenium	µg/L	2	(2)	7782-49-2	EPA 200.8
Sodium	mg/L	69	(3)	7440-23-5	EPA 200.7
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1,230	(4)		SM 2510 B
Sulfate	mg/L	50	(5)	14808-79-8	EPA 300.1
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	800	(4)		SM 2540 C

(1) Title 22. The Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations specified by the State of California Health and Safety Code (Sections 4010-4037), and Administrative Code (Sections 64401 et seq.), as amended.

(2) California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Fourth Edition of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. Table III-2A

(3) Ayers, R. S. and D. W. Westcot, *Water Quality for Agriculture*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 29, Rev. 1, Rome (1985).

(4) Second Amended Contract for Exchange of Waters, No 11r-1144, Article 9. Quality of Substitute Water.

(5) Spectrum Analytic, Inc. Guide to Interpreting Irrigation Water Analysis. Washington C.H., Ohio  
[http://www.spectrumanalytic.com/support/library/rf/A\\_Guide\\_to\\_Interpreting\\_Irrigation\\_Water\\_Analysis.htm](http://www.spectrumanalytic.com/support/library/rf/A_Guide_to_Interpreting_Irrigation_Water_Analysis.htm)

revised 11/23/2009 SCC-107

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

Table 7. Approved Laboratory List for the Mid-Pacific Region Environmental Monitoring Branch (MP-157)

<b>Basic Laboratory</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	2218 Railroad Avenue Redding, CA 96001 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Nathan Hawley, Melissa Hawley, Ricky Jensen
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(530) 243-7234 / (530) 243-7494
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	nhawley@basiclab.com (QAO), mhawley@basiclab.com (PM), jcady@basiclab.com (quotes), poilar@basiclab.com (sample custody), khawley@basiclab.com (sample custody)
	<b><u>CC Info</u></b>	nhawley@basiclab.com, jcady@basiclab.com (sample custody)
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for inorganic parameters (metals, general chemistry)</i>
<b>BioVir Analytical Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	685 Stone Road Unit 6 Benicia, CA 94510 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Rick Danielson, Lab Director
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(707) 747-5906 / (707) 747-1751
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	red@biovir.com, csj@biovir.com, lb@biovir.com, QAO Jim Truscott jrt@biovir.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for all biological and pathogenic parameters</i>
<b>Block Environmental Services</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	2451 Estand Way Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	David Block
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(925) 682-7200 / (925) 686-0399
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	dblock@blockenviron.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for Toxicity Testing.</i>
<b>California Laboratory Services</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	3249 Fitzgerald Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95742
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Raymond Osowski
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(916) 638-7301 / (916) 638-4510
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	rayo@californialab.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for Chromium VI</i>
<b>Caltest Analytical Laboratory</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	1885 North Kelly Road Napa, CA 94558
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Bill Svoboda, Project Manager x29
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(707) 258-4000 / (707) 226-1001
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	bsvoboda@caltestlab.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for all inorganic parameters and biological parameters</i>
<b>Columbia Environmental Resource Center</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	4200 New Haven Road Columbia, MO 65201 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Tom May, Research Chemist
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(573) 876-1858 / (573) 876-1896
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	tmay@usgs.gov
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for mercury in biological tissue</i>
<b>Data Chem Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	960 West LeVoy Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84123-2547 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Bob DiRienzo, Kevin Griffiths-Project Manager, Rand Potter - Project Manager, asbestos
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(801) 266-7700 / (801) 268-9992
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	griffiths@datachem.com, Potter@datachem.com Invoicing: (Justin) pate@datachem.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for asbestos, metals, organochlorine pesticides and PCBs in solids</i>
<b>Dept. of Fish &amp; Game - WPCL</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	2005 Nimbus Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	David B. Crane
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(916) 358-2858 / (916) 985-4301
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	dcrane@ospr.dfg.ca.gov
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for metals analysis in tissue.</i>
<b>Frontier Geosciences</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	414 Pontius North Seattle, WA 98109 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Shelly Fank - QA Officer, Matt Gomes-Project Manager
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(206) 622-6960 / (206) 622-6870
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	shellyf@frontiergeosciences.com, mattg@frontiergeosciences.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>in low level metals analysis.</i>

<b>Fruit Growers Laboratory</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	853 Corporation Street Santa Paula, CA 93060 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	David Terz, QA Director
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(805) 392-2024 / (805) 525-4172
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	davidt@fglinc.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for all inorganic and organic parameters in drinking water.</i>
<b>Montgomery Watson/Harza Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	750 Royal Oaks Drive Ste. 100 Monrovia, CA 91016 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Allen Glover (project manager), Bradley Cahoon (quotes)
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(916) 374-8030, 916-996-5929 (AG-cell) / (916) 374-8061
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	Allen.Glover@us.mwhglobal.com, Bradley.Cahoon@us.mwhglobal.com
	<b><u>CC Info</u></b>	cc. Sam on all communications to Allen. Samer.Momani@us.mwhglobal.com
<b>Olson Biochemistry Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	SDSU: Box 2170, ACS Rm. 133 Brookings, SD 57007 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Nancy Thiex, Laboratory Director
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(605) 688-5466 / (605) 688-6295
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	Nancy.Thiex@sdstate.edu
	<b><u>CC Info</u></b>	For re-analysis: contact Zelda McGinnis-Schlobohm and Nancy Anderson Zelda.Schlobohm@SDSTATE.EDU, Nancy.Anderson@SDSTATE.EDU For analysis questions only: just CC. Nancy Anderson
<b>Severn Trent Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	880 Riverside Parkway West Sacramento, CA 95605 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Jeremy Sadler
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(916) 374-4381 / (916) 372-1059
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	jsadler@stl-inc.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for all inorganic parameters and hazardous waste organics <b>except for Ammonia as Nitrogen</b> . Ag analysis in sediment, when known quantity is present, request 6010B</i>
<b>Sierra Foothill Laboratory, Inc.</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	255 Scottsville Blvd, Jackson, CA 95642
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Sandy Nurse (Owner) or Dale Gimble (QA Officer)
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(209) 223-2800 / (209) 223-2747
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	sandy@sierralab.com, CC: dale@sierralab.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved for all inorganic parameters, microbiological parameters, acute and chronic toxicity .</i>
<b>Twining Laboratories, Inc.</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	2527 Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93721 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Jim Brownfield (QA Officer), Sample Control (for Bottle Orders)
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(559) 268-7021 / (559) 268-0740
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	JimB@twining.com cc. to JosephU@twining.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for general chemistry and boron analysis.</i>
<b>U.S. Geological Survey - Denver</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	Denver Federal Center Building 20, MS 973 Denver, CO 80225 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Stephen A. Wilson
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(303) 236-2454 / (303) 236-3200
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	swilson@usgs.gov
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for inorganic parameters in soil .</i>
<b>USBR Technical Service Center Denver Soils</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	Denver Federal Center Building 67, D-8750 Denver, CO 80225-0007 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Juli Fahy or Stan Conway
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(303) 445-2188 / (303) 445-6351
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	jfahy@do.usbr.gov
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for general physical analysis in soils.</i>
<b>Western Environmental Testing Laboratories</b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	475 East Greg Street # 119 Sparks, NV 89431 USA
	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	Ginger Peppard (Customer Service Manager), Andy Smith (Lab Director), Michelle Kramer
	<b><u>P/F</u></b>	(775) 355-0202 / (775) 355-0817
	<b><u>Email</u></b>	ginger@WETLaboratory.com, andy@WETLaboratory.com, michelle@WETLaboratory.com
	<b><u>Methods</u></b>	<i>Approved only for inorganic parameters (metals, general chemistry).</i>

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Delta-Mendota Canal

Table 8. Summary of Depth to Groundwater in Adjacent Wells (feet)  
May 1995 - Dec 2009

Milepost	Max	Min	Average	Median	Count
12.37L	327.8	164.2	230.7	226.0	45
12.69L	244.8	207.5	226.1	225.0	45
12.75R	295.0	212.0	249.4	253.2	44
13.31L	275.8	210.0	229.9	226.2	44
14.26R	268.5	227.5	240.6	241.0	44
15.11R	264.0	200.0	238.4	238.8	45
21.25L	156.0	106.0	119.4	114.8	43
21.86L	130.0	89.6	107.6	107.9	45
22.77R	170.0	39.2	134.5	135.0	45
23.41L	254.0	141.0	190.7	188.0	45
30.43R	169.8	121.8	144.3	143.2	45
30.43L	155.0	102.0	124.5	124.1	45
31.60L	277.0	110.1	215.9	232.0	45
33.71L	198.6	130.9	166.8	168.0	45
35.73R	179.0	146.8	159.1	159.0	45
36.01L	290.0	137.2	201.3	174.0	43
36.80L	204.0	111.0	152.2	146.0	44
37.10L	277.0	158.0	193.3	189.9	44
37.32L	200.0	150.8	165.4	161.4	44
37.58L	170.0	127.8	146.2	141.2	44
45.78R	121.0	83.0	98.0	95.3	44
48.97L	130.0	80.8	97.3	95.0	44
51.66L	141.2	86.4	108.5	106.0	44
58.28L	63.0	27.0	41.5	39.8	43
60.06R	95.0	37.6	64.2	60.2	43
66.71L	49.8	19.8	34.6	33.0	43
78.31L	49.3	21.9	28.5	27.0	52
79.13R	111.8	59.4	84.5	88.2	52
79.60L	83.2	54.5	65.0	62.3	52
80.03L	80.0	16.0	34.5	34.0	52
80.03R	143.5	143.5	143.5	143.5	1
80.62R	100.2	47.8	60.6	58.5	52
80.62L	69.0	19.4	43.1	43.0	52
83.08-R	64.9	37.6	44.9	42.7	27
83.67-L	71.6	12.0	24.2	21.9	27
90.18R	201.3	103.9	136.8	130.0	52
90.19L1	218.5	98.9	141.8	133.2	52
90.19L2	190.0	72.0	131.6	123.4	52

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Delta-Mendota Canal

Table 8. Summary of Depth to Groundwater in Adjacent Wells (feet)  
May 1995 - Dec 2009

Milepost	Max	Min	Average	Median	Count
90.39R	212.0	105.0	136.0	129.2	52
90.60L	187.8	28.7	133.0	129.2	52
90.61R	198.0	104.0	135.0	127.9	52
90.91L	285.9	93.2	141.7	134.6	52
91.15L	287.7	97.4	134.8	128.0	52
91.36L	217.0	16.8	116.6	121.1	52
91.57R	222.2	91.8	132.0	126.5	52
91.68R	219.6	99.2	136.8	136.1	52
91.77R	172.2	96.0	127.1	124.2	52
91.80L	195.2	93.1	130.1	124.3	52
92.00R	172.6	109.0	137.7	131.2	52
92.14L	215.1	98.8	140.2	134.7	52
92.20R	220.0	95.8	137.3	135.3	52
92.72L	218.3	100.2	140.2	131.9	52
93.20L	296.1	102.2	135.3	129.9	52
93.27R	228.4	115.0	152.7	148.0	51
93.27L	208.5	100.8	140.1	133.5	52
94.26L	228.1	99.7	135.9	131.5	52
95.62L	213.4	99.6	138.9	127.4	52
97.28L	131.5	34.0	60.6	50.0	52
98.74L	114.2	39.2	53.8	45.6	52
99.24L	96.0	31.5	56.1	51.2	52
99.82L	181.8	19.5	57.0	50.6	52
100.24L	136.6	28.1	52.6	45.6	52
100.65L	131.2	36.5	62.2	55.2	52
100.85L	98.3	39.0	56.2	49.6	51
101.27L	120.5	37.4	58.4	49.0	51
102.04R	130.0	38.0	60.2	50.9	51
106.20R	134.5	60.7	84.8	81.9	51
113.72L	29.2	13.2	21.6	21.6	51
115.32R	82.9	18.5	31.0	31.6	51
115.62L	42.0	12.2	25.5	24.4	50
115.84R	39.2	14.9	25.1	23.6	51
116.40L1	77.0	14.2	30.4	28.0	51
116.40L2	74.0	11.3	29.8	23.7	51

## Appendix 1. 2010 Letter from Exchange Contractors



Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley

January 15, 2010

**JAMES E. O'BANION**  
Chairman

**ROY CATANIA**  
Vice Chairman

**STEVE CHEDESTER**  
Executive Director

**LARRY FREEMAN**  
Water Resources Specialist

**JOANN TOSCANO**  
Administrative Assistant

**MINASIAN, SPRUANCE,  
MEITH, SOARES &  
SEXTON LLP**  
Legal Counsel

**VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL**

Mr. Michael Jackson  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1243 N Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

Ms. Frances Mizuno  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Post Office Box 2157  
Los Banos, CA 93635

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**James E. O'Banion**  
President

**Christopher White**  
General Manager

**SAN LUIS CANAL  
COMPANY**

**James L. Nickel**  
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**Chase Hurley**  
General Manager

**FIREBAUGH CANAL  
WATER DISTRICT**

**Mike Stearns**  
President

**Jeff Bryant**  
General Manager

**COLUMBIA CANAL  
COMPANY**

**Roy Catania**  
President

**Randy Houk**  
General Manager

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e-mail: jtoscana@sjrecwa.net  
Website: www.sjrecwa.net

RE: **2010 DMC Pumping**

Dear Michael and Frances:

This letter is to confirm the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority's (Exchange Contractors) approval of your request to continue the DMC pumping program in 2010. As a result of subsidence effects being determined in 2008, this year's program must continue to include that no pumping will be allowed in Management Areas 2 and 3.

As you know, a joint groundwater study between the Central California Irrigation District, the City of Los Banos and the United States Bureau of Reclamation is currently being conducted in the Los Banos aquifer subarea due to significant groundwater concerns. The study and its recommendations are anticipated to be completed in March 2010. Due to the regulatory pumping restrictions that are being implemented on the Jones Pumping Plant, we can appreciate the SLDMWA's need to begin the environmental review process for the 2010 DMC Pumping Program; however, we must reserve the right to amend this approval letter pending the outcome of the joint groundwater study.

The Exchange Contractors' Board approval for this pumping program is based upon the conditions set forth below:

1. Any well that is proposed to pump into the lower DMC must obtain a current water quality analysis. The analysis shall consist of Ag Suitability and selenium, plus any other constituents the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) may require. (Wells may be pumped for 24

Mr. Michael Jackson  
Ms. Frances Mizuno  
RE: **2010 DMC Pumping**  
January 15, 2010  
Page 2

hours in order to get the initial sample for water quality testing.) These tests will be conducted on a monthly basis for the duration of the pumping period. From our perspective, pumping may begin once we have received copies of current lab test results for salinity and selenium, recognizing the other constituents may take longer to obtain the lab results.

2. Only wells that test at 1,500 ppm TDS or less at the well head will be allowed.
3. Only wells that test at 2 ppb selenium or less at the well head will be allowed.
4. The calculated degradation caused by the lower DMC wells shall not exceed 30 ppm. (The model developed by USBR during the 2008 and 2009 pumping program shall be used and USBR shall provide at least weekly updates of the reports to the Exchange Contractors.)
5. At any time, the wells in the lower DMC will be shut off if the measured water quality at Check 20 on the DMC exceeds 450 ppm TDS in a single day. The wells may resume pumping after the average water exceedence no longer exists for 3 days. Wells with water quality at the well head of 450 TDS or less would be allowed to continue to pump and would not be subject to this restriction.
6. The water would be credited to the receiving district as a whole, not for specific growers.
7. The wells will only run through February 28, 2011.

If you agree with the program as outlined, and before any additional lower DMC pumping commences, we request that each of your agencies confirm in writing to the program described above. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Chedester

cc: San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Members  
Paul Minasian, Esq.

## Appendix 2. Recommended Well Summary Form

**2010 DMC Pump-in Program  
Summary Sheet**

District:	
Well Operator:	
Well ID	
Well Location	

Groundwater elevation

Depth to groundwater	
Date of measurement	

DMC Milepost	
--------------	--

Water Quality Analysis

Date of sample	
Lab	
Sample ID:	

# **Appendix C – Exchange Contactors Letter**



Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley

January 15, 2010

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